

Unpicking Iraq:
where it all went
wrong.

Page 14



Dujiangyan –
a river runs
through it.

Page 20



Chill out – and kept out.

Page 18

First Chinese space tourist is man of mystery

Page 2

A new grammar of Chinese theater

Page 12 – Page 13



Photo by Gao Yuan

Students in scramble for Beijing residency

By He Jianwei

Beijing's job market has some of the best opportunities for postgraduates in China, which helps explain why the square of Beijing Agricultural Exhibition Center was so packed with student jobseekers during a recent employment fair.

It had been this busy since seven o' clock in the morning Wednesday, according to Cai Jinzhi, who completed his postgraduate studies at Harbin Engineering University in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province earlier this year.

Around a third of the companies and agencies were in a position to offer a Beijing residence permit for recent graduate employees – some 4,000 vacancies. This meant the job fair attracted many students from other provinces and cities.

The booth of the Computer Network Information Center at Chinese Academy of Sciences received more than 2,000 resumes within two hours, yet they only had 26 vacancies to fill. "We didn't have time to talk with the students other than to take their resumes," a teacher from the center said.

The job fair covered more than 22,000 square meters and was the biggest seen in the capital in recent years. Some 8,000 companies and agencies were seeking to fill 17,451 vacancies, according to the official in Beijing Personnel Bureau.

More than 20 percent of student jobseekers attending the fair were from other provinces and cities. Tianjin University chartered 15 buses to take its students to the fair.

Of the employers, 51.6 percent were private enterprises and enterprises in high and new technology, 11.3 percent were research institutions and 9.6 percent were universities and colleges. They were looking to hire graduates with Masters or higher in any of more than 1,200 majors.

Pavillion

Gong Ti Bei Lu
工体北路

Gong Ti Xi Lu
工体西路

babyface

Merry Christmas

Have your Xmas party at Pavillion Book now

Opening times 10am-late
Phone+8610 6507 2617
Fax+8610 6415 5242

www.pavillionbeijing.com
info@pavillionbeijing.com



Affordable tickets unveiled for Beijing Olympics

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) this week announced an affordable ticketing program for the 2008 Games, part of a declared commitment to allowing a wide cross section of society to enjoy the upcoming sporting spectacle. Some 58 percent of all tickets sold will be priced at or lower than 100 yuan, with a significant percentage of conces-

sionary tickets for local students costing less than 10 yuan.

The ticketing policy sets prices for individual sessions ranging from 30 to 1,000 yuan. Tickets for preliminary sessions will sell for between 30 and 300 yuan, while those for the finals will cost between 60 and 1,000 yuan. The lowest priced ticket for the opening ceremony will be 200 yuan; the most expensive as high as 5,000 yuan. The cheapest tickets

for the closing ceremony will be 150 yuan, and the most expensive 3,000 yuan.

As part of an Olympic Education Program, BOCOG has set aside a number of tickets for young people. About 14 percent of tickets available will be reserved for Chinese students.

Tickets will become available in China in the first half of 2007. More details will be made available at that time.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), which had encouraged BOCOG to set prices suited to local standards of living, has approved the plans, commenting, "The IOC is very pleased that BOCOG has found an affordable ticketing program which will maximize the opportunity for the Chinese public to enjoy the Games, whilst balancing this with interest from the international community."

Chinese ready for Asian Games

The Chinese delegation including more than 300 athletes for the 15th Asian Games in Doha, which starts today, attended the flag-raising ceremony in the Asian Games Village Wednesday.



Xinhua Photo

First Chinese space tourist is man of mystery

By He Jianwei

An entrepreneur from Zhejiang Province will become the first Chinese space tourist, going into orbit on a Virgin Galactic flight scheduled for the end of 2008. But the Chinese agent for Virgin Galactic, Hurun Report, are refusing to reveal the man's name, saying they will keep it confidential until nearer the time of the flight.

"Because the trip will not happen until 2008, which is still two years away, we don't want to release any detailed information about the passengers," said a spokesperson for Hurun. Trips cost US\$200,000 per passenger for a three and a half hour ride, of which 30 minutes is in space.

Virgin Galactic is a division of Virgin Group. They plan to offer commercial space trips by the end of 2008, traveling as high as 120 kilometers above the Earth. The company reserved two spaces on the first flight, one for a man and one for a woman, for passengers from the Chinese mainland. The company plans to send 520 people into space in some 100 launches during its first year of service.

Travelers will be required to undergo just two days of preflight preparation. Previous space tourism provided on Russian space agency-built shuttles required six months of training.

Korean bird flu prompts alert

By Chu Meng

China has instructed six provinces to step up vigilance following an outbreak of bird flu in both South (ROK) and North Korea (DPRK), according to the Ministry of Agriculture. The ministry warned that the outbreak poses a serious threat to China, as the two countries are located on the same route used by birds migrating between East Asia and Australia.

South Korean authorities confirmed last Saturday that an outbreak of bird flu in Iksan,

230 km south of Seoul, was caused by a highly virulent strain of H5N1 virus. It was the first time the ROK has reported an outbreak of bird flu since December 2003. About 236,000 chickens and other animals within a 500-meter radius of the initially infected farm will be culled and their bodies buried.

The DPRK confirmed two outbreaks of bird flu, with 236,000 chickens as well as pigs and dogs culled. Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, Shandong, Jiangsu and

Zhejiang provinces are all close to the DPRK.

The ministry ordered the six provinces to assign more staff to monitoring borders and migratory bird habitats. Local officials in Heilongjiang, Jilin and Liaoning have been ordered to work around the clock to collect and send suspicious samples to the national bird flu laboratory.

In a related development, Hong Kong announced on Monday it was suspending imports of poultry products from the DPRK.

Matchmaking party millionaires

By Han Manman

A matchmaking party open only to male millionaires and pretty educated women was held in a love boat on Shanghai's Huangpu River last Saturday, organized by a matchmaking website as the country's first dating cruise.

Tickets were 28,800 yuan for each man. To take part in the cruise along the Huangpu River, the men must have assets of at least two million yuan, and the women must be good-looking and desirable, organizer Xu Tianli said. According to him, more than 20 rich men

signed up. More than 1,000 women applied, but after stringent selection process, fewer than 30 were finally chosen. The website has hired marriage counselors who interviewed the women to determine not only that they are beautiful but kind, gentle, tasteful and are college graduates.

Besides a buffet dinner and cruise along the river, participants were treated to a talent show and could retire to private quarters on the boat for more intimate conversation.

"Rich men are normally too busy to find a partner, and most

of the women they meet at work are there only for business, which these men consider to be unsuitable for relationships," Xu said. He claims that his website provides matchmaking services only to the country's elite and that at least 3,000 millionaires throughout the country have signed up as members.

One of the millionaires taking part, who identified himself only by his surname Sun, 34, said appearance is most important to him, and his partner must have a nice personality and not marry him just for his money.

New public transport hub to take pressure off Beijing West

By Jiang Xubo

Construction of a new public transport hub close to the busy Beijing West Railway Station (BWRS) has begun this week. The hub is designed to share 70 percent of incoming passenger traffic, currently served by the often over-stretched railway station.

The 100 million yuan (US\$13 million) project, to be built by the southern square of BWRS, will cover some 15,000 square meters and host six bus platforms. Developers Beijing Public Transport say plans are set for the hub to be served by 12 public bus lines and act as a transfer point for 50,000 passengers a day.

The hub will be a two-story structure, the ground floor housing the main transfer center and an underground level providing space for parking and service garages and passenger walkways.

Work on the project is expected to be completed before the end of next year.

Duck cull leaves farmers bitter

By Annie Wei

The Ministry of Agriculture released results of their investigation into red-yolk duck eggs, banned since the middle of November, this week. Eight duck farms in Hebei and Zhejiang Province were found to have Sudan red dye in their feed. The ministry ordered the slaughter of more than 10,000 ducks that produced eggs containing the dye, and the destruction of 2,025 kilograms of red-yolk duck eggs. The Sudan red dye seller has also been arrested.

Salted duck eggs are a traditional food in China, eaten with steamed buns, with the yolk considered a particular delicacy. The stronger the color of the yolk, the better quality the salted duck eggs are considered. But last month, some eggs brought to Beijing from neighboring Hebei Province were found to have been artificially produced by some small producers, who added a red dye, Sudan IV. The Sudan dye, widely used in painting or industrial applications, is not a permitted food additive.

Duck farmers have been lamenting their loss. Sun Xinsong, a duck farmer from Jinxing town, Hebei Province said he never knew that the red dye he has been using was harmful. The dye seller told him that the dye was a high-tech product to produce red-yolk duck eggs, which bring in a higher profit. Sun had 3,000 ducks and all were killed. Sun complained that the government subsidy for killing ducks was too little. The cost of raising a duck is more than 30 yuan, according to Sun, but the subsidy was only eight yuan for each duck.

The writing's on the wall for office romeos

By Gan Tian

Li Jiyue, who works in downtown office complex the Full Link Plaza, had a surprise when she arrived at work last Monday. A large notice board had been set up in the third floor lobby and it was already covered with posted messages. A closer look revealed the postings to be declarations of mutual love and attraction between fellow workers in the building.

Similar 'love walls' have been set up at the Kerry Center and other major office buildings. They'll stay in place until December 3, providing randy or love-lorn workers with a novel way of expressing their heart's — or other part's — desire.

The notice boards are the brainchild of baihe.com, a pop-



The 'love walls' proved popular.

Photo provide by baihe.com

ular Internet dating and marriage portal. Spokesperson Xia Ji told *Beijing Today*, "We have already set up 'love walls' in 30 office buildings, and there have been a lot of follow-up activities. We work out who fancies who and help them express their feelings. We'll send flowers to your chosen one, and we give free movie tickets to create an

opportunity to go on a date. The response has been great, and lots of people have met their perfect partner."

Li Jiyue is considering trying her luck. "There is actually a boy who works on one of the upper floors whom I quite like, but we don't know each other. Maybe I could get to know him using this notice board. It's a modern way of looking for love, or at least making friends."

Fred Meyer, a manager working in East Gate, wasn't impressed. "It won't help people find true love, but it will certainly help arrange a few more one night stands," he said. "I don't think it's sensible to get involved romantically with a work colleague. There are all kinds of problems with that kind of relationship."

Xia not surprisingly urged romantically inclined cube farm denizens to use their website to arrange dates with co-workers. "It's safer and you have a better chance of becoming a long-term couple, because all of our members have to submit their real name and take a personality test. You can get to know a lot more about a person before you date them."

Xiao Yuexia, a psychology major at Beijing University, said, "Office workers have less time to find a partner these days because of heavy work loads, so this idea of dating people from your office building is quite timely. It gives people a chance to get to know each other. Many younger office workers are pretty open-minded and romantically inclined, so these love walls should be popular."

Coalmine deaths across the country

By Annie Wei

Three coalmine explosions occurred in Heilongjiang, Yunnan and Shanxi provinces last weekend killing 79 miners, according to numbers confirmed by the State Administration of Work Safety.

This represents only a small proportion of people who have been killed during coalmine accidents in China since the onset of winter. More than 200 miners have been killed since October 31, and with others hospitalized in critical condition.

Li Yizhong, director of the State Administration for Work Safety said that illegal mining and incorrect procedures are mainly responsible for the accidents.

According to the coalmine safety administration in Shanxi Province, a sudden breakdown in electricity supply stopped the ventilation system from working and led to a build up of gas, which caused the explosion. However, this mine was later found to have an out-of-date license for production and safety.

A gas explosion also caused an accident in the Yuanhua coalmine of Jixi, Heilongjiang Province leading to 22 deaths. Local police have accused three people in charge of the mine claiming that the mine had been ordered to stop production prior to the accident. Illegal mining was also the cause of the third explosion in Yunnan Province.

Serious coalmine explosions happen every year in China. Last year, there were 11 cases, each with more than 30 deaths. Seventy percent of the accidents occurred in small-scale mines in rural area where mineworkers make a living in dangerous working conditions, according to Pu Hongjiu, executive vice-president of China National Coal Association.

Farewell to the Land of Snows



People's Armed Police officers pose in front of Lhasa's Potala Palace. The men are due to leave the service, having completed a tour of duty in Tibet.

Xinhua Photo

Phoenix TV opens online sex channel

By Chen Shasha

Phoenix TV, a Hong Kong based TV broadcaster backed by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp and led by former People's Liberation Army colonel Liu Changle, opened an online sex channel recently, the first of its kind in the Chinese mainland.

"We will focus on controversial topics, such as homosexuality, wife-swapping and AIDS," Gang Gang, director of the channel says. According to him, although many radio stations have similar programs, they mainly discuss sexual information and offer help, which seems quite dull. "We hope to be a pioneer and more open," Gang Gang says. Through the online community, Internet users raised many fresh topics. At first, Gang Gang

says his department was afraid that some homosexuals, wife-swappers and sex-workers would refuse to appear online, but it turned out that they weren't so worried. "They read what the netizens says and participated in discussion, they knew we wouldn't do them any harm. It was what traditional TV couldn't hope to achieve."

Currently, they are recruiting broadcasters for their talk show programs. During two weeks, more than 1000 resumes were collected, but no one met their high standards. "I don't think candidates should necessarily have professional knowledge of sex or psychology, but they should be of good judgment and know how to lead a happy life through sex," Gang Gang says. Many young

graduates were refused due to their lack of sexual experience. Gang Gang says he plans to pay 500,000 yuan per year for the right person, because he thinks that a good sex program host would be worth it.

However, although the website enjoyed a lot of traffic and had no X-rated videos, it still did not get permission from China's State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT), as adult channels are banned in China. These restrictions make running this kind of business problematic.

According to Gang Gang, they plan to send programs to mobile phones and let users pay per view, since China Mobile invested in Phoenix TV with a 19.9 percent share early this year.

Sound of the city captured in new archive

By Jiang Xubo

The unique sounds of Beijing, including the wind whistling by the Great Wall, the cries of the city's street hawkers, and the sound of temple bells, are to be preserved for posterity, part of efforts to protect the capital's intangible cultural heritage.

The project is being run by the Capital Museum, who hope to complete preliminary collection work within the next three years. They will be collecting sounds in six categories, including social life, religion and opera. Yao An, deputy curator of the museum, says that to date some 20 percent of planned collecting work is complete.

Listeners will be able to hear sounds from peaceful parks, bustling markets and a whole range of the capital's unique acoustic heritage, in a special exhibition space in the museum's basement level, Yao said.

"We will also record sounds like the roar of heavy machinery at Olympic venue construction sites and the hubbub at ceremonial occasions. It will be an audio record for the capital," Yao said. He added that sounds are collected using special equipment and currently the museum has no plan to accept public contributions to the archive.

Brief news

Record high central tax take

The capital's central tax collection in the first 10 months of this year has hit a total of 205 billion yuan (US\$26 billion), crossing the 200 billion yuan (US\$25.5 billion) mark for the first time and up some 40 percent on the same period of last year, the Beijing Municipal Office of State Administration of Taxation announced.

Gays number 300,000 in Beijing

The number of gay people currently live in the capital has reached over 300,000, said Shao Yiming this week, an expert on HIV prevention and control, who works for the Ministry of Health.

Fire incidents approach 190,000

The country has seen more than 189,000 fires nationwide during the first ten months of this year, leaving over 1,200 people dead and around 1,200 injured, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

Pirated goods sized

The country seized more than 58 million illegal publications, four pirated DVD production lines and solved 10,000 cases of intellectual property infringement in a 100-day anti-piracy campaign jointly launched during July by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Public Security and eight other departments.

Urban job crunch

At least 24 million urban residents will be looking for jobs each year in the coming several years but there are likely to be only 11 million openings, which means the country's urban centers have to create 13 million new jobs a year to meet the demand, according to Tian Chengping, the Minister of Labor and Social Security.

(By Jiang Xubo)

Gold medallists bring marathon lawsuit against coach

By Jiang Xubo

A former world gold medal marathon runner and her teammates received their second court hearing this week, moving one step closer to recovering their wages and bonuses, around 240,000 yuan (US\$30,000), which they believe were embezzled by Wang Dexian, their coach.

The court did not give any verdicts, but adjourned again for two more weeks, allowing the two sides to collect more evidence.

Filed late this September in Haidian District's local court, the lawsuit saw its second hearing within one month and the list of defendants grew.

And yet, Ai Dongmei, Guo Ping and Li Juan, former long and middle distance runners, had to undergo another journey on the road to compensation, a journey longer than any marathon they ran before.



Ai Dongmei (L) and Guo Ping's feet have seriously distorted after years of training and competition.

Photos by Tian Yufeng

Forced embezzlement

Ai Dongmei, 25, joined Wang's team in 1995. Four years later, she took the gold medal in the Beijing International Marathon 1999 and several other international races. Ai retired in 2003 with numerous medals and a pair of distorted feet, both rewards for eight years' hard training and competition.

"I returned to my hometown and worked as a mobile phone saleswoman for several days after my retirement, but my feet kept giving out, I could hardly work," Ai said, cradling her baby daughter.

"We used to buy formula priced over 40 yuan (US\$5) per bag for her, but now we can only afford powdered milk priced at 13 yuan (US\$1.6)," Ai said. She currently receives 300 yuan per month from the locomotive sports association.

Ai could provide a better life for her daughter if she gets what she had earned during her 1995-2006 sports career, including wages, allowance and bonuses.

"Detailed records from the association show that Ai Dongmei's total income alone has hit over 160,000

yuan (US\$20,000), and mine is over 110,000 yuan (US\$14,000)," Guo Ping, Ai's teammate, said.

More records from the association proved their coach had taken away almost all the money, both cash and what was deposited in bank accounts.

"Leave the money in our bank accounts alone! Wang Xiande has taken hundreds of thousands of yuan from our money. He had splurged what we earned through hard work, leaving us without even knowing what happened," Ai said.

Worsening the case, the coach was accused of embezzling by force.

"We were terrified of being

beaten, that's why we never dared to ask what the bills were and what was going on when Wang demanded we sign," Zang Yunjie, one of the witnesses and Ai's teammate, said. "The coach once punished me with 20 lashes for eating a *tanghulu* (candied crabapples) when I was on his team," Zang said.

A written testimony from Sun Yingjie, another gold medalist and one of Wang's best-known pupils, supports Zang's accusation.

"I signed bills about which I knew nothing. If I demanded to know what the bills were, the coach would have beaten me. Ai Dongmei also signed bills totally against her

will under the threat of force," Zang said during the first hearing.

Ai Dongmei is not the only victim.

"Taking cortisone shots to participate in the events devastated my feet," Guo Ping said. She tried to secure a position as a PE teacher in a primary school during the three years of unemployment following her retirement. "They just told me, 'You can hardly stand up, how can you be a teacher?'"

"We just want to get back what we deserve," Ai said. "Then I will get a driving license and work as a taxi driver. That's the best job for me given my distorted feet," she said.



The accusers attend their second hearing.



Zang Yunjie gives her testimony.



The locomotive sports association

Coach denies all

The coach, absent for both court hearings, has denied all accusations against him – but not in court.

"They have no idea how many expenses we had to cover with their bonuses," Wang said. "It's a

high energy-consumption event, and they were still growing up physically when they entered my team. Do you know how much did it cost to cover their medical car and nutrition? And what about all the ginseng and young

pilous antler?" Wang said in an October interview with *Kuaibao*, a Nanjing-based paper. "Besides, coaches have a right to appropriate bonuses to some extent," he said.

The coach also denied accusations against him that he physically abused his pupils

during a TV interview aired on CCTV in October.

Wang, former chief coach of the national training team for track and field events, has been under fire since Sun Yingjie broke from him this October and charged him with embezzlement and maltreatment.

Sun Yingjie, bronze medalist of the women's 10,000m in the 2003 World Championships in Athletics, and Xing Huina, gold medalist of the women's 10,000m in the Athens 2004 Olympics Games, were two of Wang's most well-known pupils.

More defendants

The accusers filed a written accusation against the locomotive sports association, where Wang was a member, as a secondary defendant during the second hearing.

"The association put the run-

ners' property under the coach's custody from 1999-2006 without their authorization which led to the embezzlement. This means Wang and the association are both responsible. In addition, the association's lack of over-

sight resulted in the athletes' financial and psychological suffering. That's why the association has to take its share of liability for their damages," Li Jun, one of the accusers' attorneys, said.

"Small, individual groups for long and middle distance race events do exist, and their teams

may go out of cities to train in remote places, which may result in the coaches' hardened attitudes and lack of respect for the athletes, and even physical maltreatments, in the long run," Luo Chaoyi, assistant director of the Track and Field Administrative Center, said.

The locomotive sports asso-

ciation, which is affiliated to the Ministry of Railways, is a trade sports society founded in the early 1950s.

The physical training brigade, where Wang worked as a coach in long and middle distance race team, is in charge of competitive events including track and field.

Water in Beijing reservoir, lakes unfit for drinking or irrigation

Beijing (AFP) – Water from Beijing's fourth-largest drinking source was found unfit for human consumption or irrigation during the month of October, the capital's environmental protection agency reported.

Water from the Guanting reservoir did not meet the number five standard, the lowest on China's five-tiered pollution monitoring scale, the Beijing Environmental Protection Administration said in its latest monthly water quality report.

Of the city's 21 water sources, the water quality at one reservoir was rated at level five but was suitable for irrigation, while four other

reservoirs have dried up and could not provide any water, it reported.

In a separate report on Beijing lakes, the administration said that seven out of 16 lakes in the city were so polluted that their water could not be used to irrigate the parks that surrounded them.

The report said the water quality in the lake at Yuanmingyuan Park and at Taoranting Lake, two major tourist spots, were below level five.

The watchdog earlier blamed untreated waste water, industrial effluent and agricultural pollution for Beijing's deteriorating water quality in its lakes and reservoirs, Xinhua reported.

Expert comment

Water pollution in urban areas is mainly caused by domestic sewage. The capital has been witnessing a rise in the discharge of domestic sewage over the last several years.

The government should certainly shoulder responsibility for dealing with this pollution, but city residents can play part too. We can conserve water use, which will reduce domestic sewage discharge. We can also use fewer detergents, which will cut the amount of phosphorus in

waste water, which has a harmful effect on water quality and the environment as a whole.

We should encourage the use of reclaimed water for irrigation and landscape construction in the city's burgeoning residential areas. Currently the capital's wastewater treatment facilities are running far below capacity.

*– Jiang Wenlai, researcher, Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences
(By Jiang Xubo)*



Testing has shown water quality is poor in many of the city's lakes.

CFP Photo

Multinationals found not socially responsible in China

Beijing, November 25 (PTI) – Many multinationals have failed to fulfill their social responsibilities in China, with some overtly flouting local laws and regulations, a survey has found.

Tracking 126 multinationals over the year, the *Southern Weekly* newspaper found four kinds of malpractice most prevalent – refusing to set up labor unions, poor environmental practices, failing to deliver quality services and providing substandard products.

A few were guilty of bribing government officials or the management of other companies, the weekly wrote, without naming offenders.

In a breakdown, it said 58 companies, 46 percent of the companies surveyed, had refused to comply with the law requiring establishment of labor unions while another 20, 15.9 percent, had seriously damaged the local environment.

Thirty-seven companies, or 29.4 per cent of those polled, provided substandard services or commodities to Chinese consumers with 19 of them the objects of repeated complaints.

The newspaper said that all 126 companies surveyed are 'Fortune 500' companies who have posted 'outstanding' financial results in sales revenue, export volume and pre-tax profits.

A manager comments

Generally speaking, enterprises make profits serving or selling to the public, so fulfilling their social responsibilities should be part of customer relations.

Being socially responsible helps a multinational company build a good reputation, which has benefits for sustainable corporate development. Failure to understand the importance of corporate social responsibility will hurt a company in the long run.

Nissan China has always seen meeting our social responsibilities as an integral part of the company's development strategy, and we have a number of activities designed to achieve this end, ranging from making charitable donations to sponsoring cultural events like Silk Road Travel.

*– Huo Jing, Supervisor, PR and Brand Department, Nissan (China) Investment Company
(By Jiang Xubo)*

Chinese officials catch blogging bug

Beijing, November 25 (AFP / metimes.com) – Twenty officials from a town in eastern China have set up their own blogs after being encouraged by a local government leader, state media said.

During a meeting, Zhang Xinshi, the party's number one in Suqian County, Jiangsu Province, asked the heads of various departments in the town to write blogs "to get discussions and observations from everyone, to allow the public to check things, and to maintain an efficient and clear channel of

communication between party officials and the masses," *Beijing News* reported.

On his own blog, Zhang describes his various activities and holds forth on the damaging

effects of spitting in public, a practice still common in China.

However, journalists have pointed out that visitors to the site are not allowed to post their comments immediately. The town's computer department explains that it is only a technical problem for the time being.

While the government considers the Internet a useful tool in economic development, it also clamps down on any political opposition that appears, for the sake of maintaining a stable society and economic growth.

Interview with the editor

It's news for us, as we believe blogs are a platform for openness. It's creative to use blogs as a channel for officials to communicate with the public.

However, I personally think if we have a functional congress and open media, we can solve the problems more effectively.

So, it's better to make full use of the existing platforms first. More importantly, don't forget our ultimate purpose is to perfect public services. How you achieve that is secondary.

*– Grahame Bennett, managing editor, Middle East Times
(By Zhao Hongyi)*

China urges pre-flight toilet training to save fuel

Beijing, November 30 (Reuters) – A Chinese airline has calculated that it takes a liter of fuel to flush the toilet at 30,000 feet and is urging passengers to go to the bathroom before they board.

As Chinese airlines come under increasing pressure to cut fuel expenditures, China Southern's latest strategy is to encourage passengers "to spend their pennies before boarding the aircraft," Xinhua news agency reported on Thursday.

"The energy used in one flush is enough for an economical car to run at least 10 kilometers," Captain Liu Zhiyuan, who flies regularly between Hangzhou and Beijing, was quoted as saying.

Citing a survey by the company's logistics department, Liu said carrying one kilogram of items such as blankets and pillows by air for one hour uses 0.2 kg of fuel.

"This means the blankets and pillows on board the aircraft eat up 60 tones of fuel every day. If each seat is loaded with three 450-gram magazines, another 60 tones will be consumed," Liu said.

Ban on medical commercials

Beijing (Reuters) – China, responding to complaints from the public, has banned advertisements for medical treatments and procedures in a bid to halt bogus claims of wonder drugs and clean up an unregulated health industry.

The ban will cover advertising on television, radio and in newspapers and will take effect on January 1, *Beijing News* said on Tuesday.

It would ban guarantees of effectiveness, and the "use of sufferers" and medical personnel to promote treatments and procedures.

China has issued a rash of advertising bans in recent months in response to rising consumer complaints about bogus medical guarantees, spotty drug supervision and bad taste.

Last month, China banned print ads for treatments of sexually transmitted diseases, abortions and potency drugs, and outlawed TV ads for the treatment of intestinal ailments on morning rush hour buses after commuters complained about losing their appetite.

Beijing Internet use close to 30 percent

Shanghai, November 29 (Interfax) – Internet penetration in Beijing has reached 28.9 percent, the highest of all Chinese cities.

The deputy director of Beijing's municipal IT promotion office, Li Hong, said this week the number of Internet users has reached 4.45 million.

Li also said that 356,463 Internet domains had been registered in the city, representing 13.8 percent of the total number in China and ranking second in the country. Chinese domains registered in Beijing totaled 195,082.

There are 128,963 websites in Beijing and 2.56 million families in the capital have broadband Internet access. *(By Jiang Xubo)*

Hu launches economic zone in Pakistan

Lahore, November 27 (khaleejtimes.com) – Chinese president Hu Jintao inaugurated a joint economic zone in Lahore, before wrapping up his four day visit to Pakistan.

Hu visited the economic zone, where the Chinese white-goods producer Haier has a factory. The

president said that strategic partnership between Islamabad and Beijing was growing through economic cooperation.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said that Pakistan was rapidly transforming into a major market economy and welcomes foreign investors, includ-

ing Chinese entrepreneurs.

Aziz said that oil and gas, mining, automobiles, information technology, telecommunications and agriculture were the fields where tremendous opportunities existed.

The new economic zone was in addition to the Free Trade

Area (FTA) signed between the two countries during Hu's visit. The FTA, to be effective from July 1, 2007, will reduce tariffs to zero on hundreds of items for import and export between the two countries and for the first time provide duty concessions to Pakistan's textile products.

Haier to set up software center in India

New Delhi, November 29 (EE Times) – Haier Telecom, the mobile handset arm of the Qingdao-based Haier Group, plans to set up a software development center in India focused on the needs of Indian mobile users. The company said it is also considering opening a handset manufacturing unit in the country during the next 18 months.

The center will also work on networked mobile gaming, streaming media, advertisements

and incentive distribution, content management, speech-enabled applications using BREW, J2ME and other technologies in both the GSM and CDMA segments.

To staff the center, Haier is seeking a head of software development, project leaders and software engineers.

The company has an Indian subsidiary, Haier Telecom P. Ltd., based in Gurgaon in Haryana in northern India.

ZTE joins McorpGlobal for Indian market

Shanghai, November 23 (Interfax) – ZTE, a Chinese telecom equipment manufacturer, established a presence in India by signing a joint-venture deal with McorpGlobal.

The two companies will set up a service-based company, which will import, distribute and sell telecom equipment and offer telecom-related services in India.

The joint venture will import mostly ZTE equipment and eventually set up a manufactur-

ing unit in India.

The partners will also set up a local R&D base focusing on switching and radio equipment for the Indian and South Asian markets.

Despite repeated submissions, India's Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) failed to clear ZTE's proposal to increase its equity capital, enter wholesale trading in telecom equipment and offer after-sales services in India.

NYSE plans office in Beijing

Beijing, November 27 (AFP) – The New York Stock Exchange plans to open an office in Beijing, hoping to get more Chinese companies to list on the US bourse.

The NYSE has applied for permission from the Chinese authorities and expects to obtain approval early next year.

There are 18 Chinese companies listed on the NYSE, including big names like China Southern and China Mobile.

In addition eight companies from Hong Kong and five from Taiwan are listed on the NYSE.

As of August 31, the 31 companies from the Greater China area had a total market capitalization of US\$671 billion, according to the latest data from the NYSE.

The high-tech Nasdaq market is emerging as more of a potential rival for the NYSE and has attracted Chinese dotcoms such as Netease, Sina and Sohu.

Some Chinese companies have chosen European exchanges, arguing that less cumbersome listing procedures make them a better choice, including Air China.

First look at new Vista



Kevin Turner, Microsoft's Chief Operating Officer, is seen at the Windows Vista launch ceremony held yesterday in Beijing. Microsoft announced availability of the business versions

of its long-awaited Windows Vista operating system yesterday, as a part of its global releasing campaign. The other two products released at the ceremony were Office

System 2007 and Exchange Server 2007.

The system products will be available to retail customers on January 30, 2007.

CFP Photo

ABN AMRO launches leasing business

Beijing, November 16 (XFN-Asia) – ABN AMRO launched its leasing business in China. The newly established entity, ABN AMRO Leasing (China) Co. Ltd., will offer products such as financial leases, operating leases, sale and leaseback and receivables purchase.

The bank added that it expects demand to be concentrated on leasing of capital goods such as mining equipment, pharmaceutical equipment, manufacturing plants, electricity generators, port handling equipment and road making equipment.

In addition, ABN Amro opened a branch on November 23 in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province.

ABN has 10 outlets in mainland China. The bank plans to double the number in the next five years, according to its office in Beijing.

Unilever to expand R&D centers in China

Shanghai, November 26 (Reuters) – Unilever has recognized India and China as the focus areas in Asia for future R&D.

The Bangalore research center will carry out research on foods, perfume, skin/hair health, water

purification, laundry cleaning, skin cleansing, tea science, nutrition and corporate research.

The Shanghai research center, which is a dedicated chemistry laboratory, will focus on development and delivering novel mol-

ecules and functional materials across all home and personal care categories.

Unilever is closing more than half of its food research and development locations in Europe as part of a cost-cutting reorganization.

The group said it would move to 29 food R&D locations in Europe from 60. Unilever, the world's third-biggest consumer goods group, said the changes would commence in 2007 and be completed by the end of 2008.

Top luxury shopping mall to open

By Han Manman

A luxury shopping mall in Beijing Financial Street, called Seasons Shopping Center, was unveiled to the public this week. The center will open for business in August 2007.

The Financial Street Holdings (FSH), the developer, claims it is Beijing's most luxurious shopping mall, featuring top international brands.

"Over 80 percent of store space has been taken by big brands like Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Ferragamo and Versace. We expect the remaining to be taken within a month," Gao Liang, FSM, said.

Deer Airlines set up in Beijing

Beijing, November 28 (Sino-Cast via COMTEX) – A new airline based in Beijing was launched this week in Beijing.

Based at Beijing Capital International Airport, Deer Airlines will operate a wide range of businesses such as international and domestic chartered business travel flights, air cargo transportation, leased business jet flights, and medical support and rescue.

Beijing widens fund mandates

Beijing, November 29 (ft.com) – Beijing has, for the first time, appointed foreign institutions to manage the overseas investments of its US\$40 billion state pension fund.

The National Social Security Fund, established in 2000 by the central government as a last resort pension fund, has handed investment mandates to 10 international groups, including UBS, Pimco, Invesco, State Street, Alliance Bernstein and Black Rock.

Beijing-Washington non-stop flight

Washington, November 29 (AP) – United Airlines is considering starting non-stop flights between Beijing and Washington D.C. from March next year.

The move has won support from the White House, said Mark Schwab, Pacific region vice president of the airline.

DaimlerChrysler to buy Foton stake

Beijing, November 30 (Bloomberg) – DaimlerChrysler AG, the world's largest truckmaker, will buy a 24 percent stake in Beiqi Foton Motor Co., China's biggest light-truck maker.

The German automaker will pay 816.8 million yuan (US\$104 million), becoming the second-largest shareholder.

IKEA opens outlet in Sichuan

Chengdu, November 29 (Reuters) – IKEA, the world's largest furniture retailer, opened its fourth outlet in China on Wednesday in Chengdu, Sichuan province.

"It is our first step into western China, as the region boasts great business potential," Ingvar Kamprad, founder of IKEA, said.

IKEA entered China in 1998 and has outlets in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou.

Blair admits to 'deep sorrow' over slavery



Blair said slavery is a crime against humanity.

CFP Photo

Independent

Tony Blair expressed his "deep sorrow" this Monday for Britain's role in the slave trade, but will stop short of demands for a full apology.

The Prime Minister describes the slave trade, which Britain helped to ban, as a "crime against humanity" in an article for the black magazine *New Nation*. His decision to say sorry for slavery comes after a lengthy cabinet debate and is intended to coincide with the bicentenary next year

of the legislation pioneered by William Wilberforce in 1807 to abolish the slave trade.

"It is hard to believe that what would now be a crime against humanity was legal at the time. Personally, I believe the bicentenary offers us a chance not just to say how profoundly shameful the slave trade was, but also to express our deep sorrow it ever happened, that it ever could have happened and to rejoice at the different and better times we live in

today." The Prime Minister's condemnation is intended to clear the air before the Government sets out its plans to commemorate.

A written ministerial statement to Parliament is due this week, setting out the government plans to commemorate the date. There will be cross-party support. In the past, Blair has also apologized for the British failure to do more to alleviate the pain and suffering over the potato famine in Ireland.

Comments:

Yes, we should apologize, but then so should the Italians apologize for the Romans invading Britain and enslaving Britons. Should the Egyptians apologize to the Israelis for enslavement of thousands in biblical times? Finally, ask how many slave descendants would agree to be returned to Africa!

— Macrafts, Grantham, UK

Tony Blair should not apologize for the slave trade. It should be confined to history where it belongs. The generations of today are not responsible for things that occurred over 200 years ago and beyond their control. Slavery, although abhorrent, was something seen as right for the time in which people lived.

— Tim, Sheffield, UK

It's long overdue for Britain to apologize for the misery and devastation caused by the slave trade, and it is a healthy sign for a modern democracy to be able to come to terms with its past and take responsibility for it.

— Rhobat Bryn Jones, Caerdydd, Cymru

Since current generations weren't involved, an apology can't be meaningful. The government and the people can of course indicate that we condemn slavery, past and present, but that's a given.

— Cath Boylan, Guildford

Tony is cleverly preparing the ground for the next stage in his career after leaving Downing Street. 'Apologizing' for slavery is a first step to angling for a high level post at the UN or somewhere in Europe.

After all, gestures are more important than actions in these well-paid sinecures.

— Angus McFarlane, Bucharest, Romania

I don't feel that apologizing was bad, considering that many of us Britons are disturbed by what our nation has done in the past. To those who are happy with the apology, I pay my respects.

— Kevin Miller, Kent, UK

I'm not sure that the elected governments of entire countries should apologize for slavery. It's great when specific institutions that played a role in slavery do so, or when families that made their fortunes from slavery try to make amends. The trouble is that the elected government represents the whole population.

— Marie, Washington DC, US

Abortions should be made easier on demand

The Times

Laws that require two doctors to approve an abortion should be dropped to allow women complete control over their family planning, a leading pregnancy advice charity said Tuesday.

The British Pregnancy and Advisory Service, which handles 50,000 terminations a year, is

demanding legal reforms to allow abortion on demand as a "responsible back-up" to contraception. The abortion debate has concentrated on the upper limit at which fetuses can be aborted, but the new demands focus on the early stages of pregnancy.

Forty years after Lord Steel of Aikwood heralded the age of legal-

ized abortions with his 1967 Act, the advisory service maintains that it is now time for the few remaining restrictions to be relaxed. Chief among the demands is for an end to the "frankly arcane" rule that requires two doctors to approve an abortion. Abortions should also be made easier by allowing nurses rather than doctors to prescribe the

abortion pill to women within the first nine weeks.

The call, at a time of concern about teenage pregnancy, will increase concerns that women will turn to abortion instead of contraception. Having sex without repercussions is a right that should not be complicated by unwanted children.

Comments:

It's difficult to see why people conclude that being assessed by one doctor, rather than two will lead to a significant change in UK abortion rates. I suggest it would make no difference at all. If we are genuinely concerned about women's health, we should ensure that they have complete rights over their own bodies.

— Thomas Davies, London, UK

Children need to be raised by

accountable parents. Abortion on demand is a good idea simply because it removes the 'in-the-way' fetus. We have always been a selfish, materialistic race. We might as well face the facts and raise our true colors.

— Rich H, Nebraska, US

The abortion issue is very personal and, if anything, it should be made easier. To say this would not imply endorsing promiscuity or abandoning ideals of chastity is incorrect. While it is true that

frequent abortions will adversely affect health and may create many other psychological problems, the woman should have the last word on this issue.

— Im M Gurbaxani, Bangalore, India

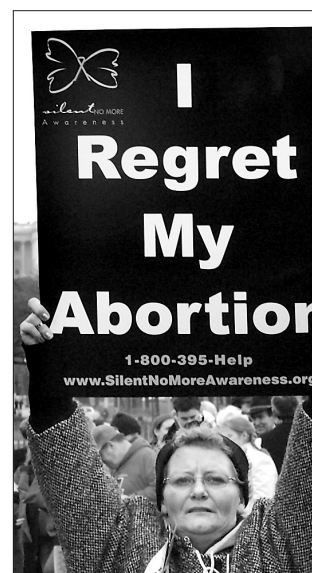
Doctors have shown themselves incapable of discharging their duties under the abortion act to ensure that abortions are carried out for good reasons. Instead, they have merely rubber-stamped women's demands. We need to

rethink the law, but not necessarily to accept the current reality.

— Malcolm McLean, Bradford, UK

I do feel that abortions are seen as a treatment rather than the termination of an unborn child. To say that an abortion is a form of contraception is inhuman; if the doctors put across to the mother that abortion is a form of back-up contraception, then there will be more evil in the world.

— Dharmesh Mistry, London



Abortion has always been a contentious issue in the West.

CFP Photo

Weekly topics

Guardian (UK)

1. Revealed: rise of creationism in UK schools
2. Dismay at BBC as Grade is revealed as new ITV chief
3. Poisoning puts business with Russia under a cloud
4. Henry snubbed by Fifa awards
5. Spy death linked to nuclear thefts

New York Times (US)

1. Gilded paychecks: Lure of great wealth affects career choices
2. Free or Farmed, When Is a Fish Really Organic?
3. That prenatal visit may be months too late
4. Global warming goes to court
5. Russian window on the west reaches for the sky

Newsweek (US)

1. ABC pays Murdoch US\$1 million over O.J.
2. Financial institutions woo growing Latino market
3. Pope's Turkey visit raises tensions
4. Teen brains changed by violent videogames
5. Satire: Bush launches Sudoku offensive

The Australian (Aus)

1. Prince Christian to appear on stamp
2. No date set for N Korea nuke talks
3. Workplace deaths prompt safety call
4. Students injured in school bus crash
5. Youth charged over gate-crashing stabbing

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. Poor bear burden of environmental hazards
2. The lost generations
3. Liberals gather in Montreal
4. Toronto gets 'C' for sewage control
5. Chickpea soup warms the soul

(By Huang Daohen)

UN to present Red Ribbon Award in Beijing

By Qiu Jiaoning

The United Nations (UN) will present US\$5,000 to AIDS Care China, a HIV/AIDS community group, for being a global finalist in the category of Providing Access to Prevention, Care, Treatment and Support for people living with HIV/AIDS today, in Beijing.

The award is issued to coincide with World AIDS Day.

"This initiative presents a unique opportunity to recognize and support outstanding community leadership and action in response to the epidemic, and to promote further involvement of community-based groups as partners in China's AIDS response," Khalid Malik, UN Resident Coordinator in China, said.

Organized by the United

Nations Development Programme in partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Red Ribbon Award provides an occasion to support and publicize the most outstanding and least recognized efforts to stop the global epidemic. It's given to communities who find innovative and effective ways to address HIV/AIDS.

Following an international call for nominations, the Red Ribbon Committee received 517 nominations from all regions of the world, the majority from Africa, Asia and Latin America. A committee comprising of 45 members knowledgeable in community leadership reviewed and selected 25 finalist community groups.

Free wine cellars for 'middle class'

By Chu Meng

Canada-based International Wine Cultural Promotion Association (IWCPA) began distributing 100,000 wine cellars to Chinese middle-class families on Monday. The cellars will be distributed until Christmas to promote Western wine culture.

The first batch of 10,000 wine cellars was ready for distribution as of Monday. IWCPA defines 'Chinese middle class' as anyone who owns an apartment greater than 120 square meters, has VIP status with a bank or airline, owns a private car from a brand like BMW and pays a 3,000 yuan deposit. Villa and luxury sedan owners are given top priority.

However, the association's definition of 'Chinese Middle Class' drew hot dispute. Chinese people and sociologists have been working hard for a long time to identify this class.

"We had a conflict with IWCPA's standards at first, because they took it for granted that Chinese middle class are well-educated. There's a lot of 'new money' from the coal mine business living in expensive villas, but they are poorly educated and know little about wine," Li Zhaoyun, head of Shanghai Great Culture Company, the company IWCPA hired to identify 'middle-class' families, said.

Americian gets award for shooting Beijing

By Gan Tian

'Beijing, An Olympic City in View 2006 Photo Contest,' organized by the Beijing Travel Administration, held its closing ceremony on Tuesday in Oriental Plaza.

Peter Danford, USA, won first prize with his photo named *The Water Cube*. In the closing ceremony, he said he met *The Water Cube*'s Australian designer by accident when he was photographing it. Moved by his spirit, the designer allowed him to take an inside visit.

"It's interesting. The expats in this city really offer a different view of things. We ourselves seldom have those ideas and perspectives. Most of the photos exhibited here seem to

be very unfamiliar sights, and for a moment, I couldn't recognize it was from my city," a Beijing local said.

Jeremy Zawodny, an Australian who took part in the competition, told Beijing Today, "It's really important for us. We don't see ourselves as 'outsiders', and feel we are a part of this city. Even though I didn't get an award this year, I think I'll still attend these kinds of activities."

This is the second time the Beijing Photo Contest has been held. "There will be a photo competition and exhibition among expats every year. We hope more and more people will take part in sharing their views of this ancient and modern city," Ji Yue, a spokesman for the event, said.



The contest attracted 13,000 entries.

Photo by Qi Lianmin

The contest began on May 10, lasting half a year until October 25. More than 13,000 works from 50 countries were submitted to

the organizers. The best photos were selected and exhibited for three days on the ground floor of Oriental Plaza.

Buy UNICEF Greeting Cards/Gifts and Help Children in China

购买联合国儿童基金会的贺卡/礼品 帮助中国贫困儿童

unicef
联合国儿童基金会



MAKE A WISH

— Buy a Card, Support a Child

In true festive spirit, when you give beautiful UNICEF cards and gifts to family, friends and clients this season, your generosity reaches many more than just those on your list. Your purchase enables children in China to benefit from the life-saving and life-changing gifts of healthcare, better nutrition and basic education particularly for girls and protection of disadvantaged groups.

What is special about UNICEF cards?

The UNICEF greeting card program has a 51-year history that began when a seven-year old girl in the former Czechoslovakia gave her drawing to UNICEF to say "thank you" for the help she received. Today, UNICEF cards are sold in many countries using designs donated by artists from all over the world.

Most people don't know that 10 percent of UNICEF's worldwide programs are funded by sales of its cards and gifts. And if you or your company sends UNICEF cards, the recipients may buy the cards next year. That's significant, because the more cards we sell, the more children we can reach.

UNICEF cards are printed on recycled paper, and they're great for a variety of occasions: Birthdays, Anniversaries, Get Well, Thinking of You, Season's Greetings, and general use. You can also give them as gifts to your family and friends. Proceeds from cards sold in China are used exclusively for projects in China.

Cards are usually sold in packs of 10 costing RMB70-85 (about US\$10). The money goes a long way: Just RMB1 provides a year's supply of Vitamin A supplements for a Chinese child, boosting her immune system and reducing his chances of childhood mortality. If you're in Beijing, you can come to see the colourful cards on display at our showroom (from now to Dec. 24, 2006, open all week days, 8:30-17:30), conveniently located in central Beijing at 12 Sanlitun Road in Chaoyang District.

Also, welcome to our stand sale and appreciate the support from the following hotels and department stores:

Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center	Nov. 15, 2006 - Feb. 28, 2007
Jing Lun Hotel	Dec. 1 - 5, 2006
The Kerry Mall	Dec. 1 - 25, 2006
Pacific Century, Beijing	Dec. 1 - 28, 2006
China World Shopping Mall	Dec. 1 - 28, 2006
Full Tower	Dec. 4 - 8, 2006
Beijing Xidan Pacific Department Store Co., Ltd. 5th Floor	Dec. 8 - 24, 2006

You can contact us by calling (+8610) 6532-3131, UNICEF

- Extension 2205 / 6 for Beijing
- Extension 2204 for East China
- Extension 2207 for South China

A Long Way from Home

13-year-old Xue Lian and her 11-year-old sister Xue Yuan spent six months and many miles away from home to beg, sell flowers and collect empty bottles and cans in the city, all for a meagre RMB200.

The sisters were forced to drop out of the school and leave their rural home in Anhui when their father fell ill with tuberculosis.

"We were so afraid we would not be able to find our way back home," remembers Xue Lian. Finally, local police picked up the girls and took them to a children's association center in Hefei, a UNICEF-supported program that helps kids like Xue Lian and Xue Yuan find their way back home.

UNICEF continues to support projects such as this and works with the Chinese government to return street children to safe environment and give them access to basic services, such as education.

Note: the children's names have been changed to protect their identity.



Volunteers' phone numbers:

13661174500	134 01035161	13701093614	13693082466	01084792041
13953398998	13581881269	13811503009	13953398998	13910067280
13301218393	13901381945	1391014 8806	13701018926	13910512114
13718813188	13701206401	13810421599	13501000678	13910975292
13001109456	13811955118	13366600098	13501356898	13910727200



衷心感谢社会各界贺卡与礼品购买人, 特别鸣谢以下单位 (按字母排序):

埃森哲
爱尔康(中国)眼科
安利(中国)日用品有限公司
奥迪中国
北京青年报社
北京融鼎投资有限公司
北青传媒股份有限公司
成都深长城地产有限公司
德国莱茵TUV中国集团
佳能(中国)有限公司
锦江麦德龙现购自运有限公司
康明斯
闽风艺术画廊

零壹集团(香港)有限公司
南都房产集团
南京新力传媒有限公司
荣祥
赛诺菲安万特集团
三菱商事(中国)商业有限公司
山西国贸大酒店
上海长宁国际学校
上海少年日报
上海统一星巴克咖啡有限公司
深圳企业家摄影学会
斯道拉恩索中国
苏州阳光新地置业有限公司

通用电气(中国)有限公司
UT斯达康(中国)有限公司
喜达屋酒店与度假村国际集团
香港新世界百货
新世界俱乐部
新世界中国地产
宜家家居
盈科中心
中国贸易促进会专利商标事务所
中国日报
中建国际建设公司
中信基金管理有限责任公司



EU charity dinner raises cash for orphans

By Han Manman

The European Union Chamber of Commerce (EUCC) in China will host its 6th Annual Charity Gala Dinner, December 8, in the Kempinski Hotel. The event, themed 'Touch an Orphan's Life', is expected to draw as many as 300 guests from the European and wider international business community in Beijing.

The event is organized in association with the EU-China Managers Association, Operation Blessing and the China Charity Federation, each of which run projects dedicated to improving the lives of China's 21 million orphans. The event aims to raise 2 million yuan to benefit select high-impact projects in China.

This EUCC's Gala stands apart from other charity events for its long-term focus on a specific area, orphans in China, especially the provision of life-saving surgeries, medical treatment, education and physical therapy.

The European Chamber raised over one million yuan for orphans last year, and hopes to double that amount this year, with help from sponsors, ticket sales and a raffle.

Date: Friday, December 2006. 6:30 pm

Ticket price: 850-yuan Chamber Members, 950-yuan non-Members

Contact: Ms Davina Ho for tickets

Email: dho@euccc.com.cn
Tel: 6462 2066

Weathering disasters together

By Qiu Jiaoning

China has adopted a new community-based approach to disaster prevention and preparedness in a joint project with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Wednesday, in Beijing, to empower those most vulnerable to disasters.

The US\$1.2 million project, dubbed Disaster Risk Management (DRM), will select 10 Chinese communities in hazard-prone regions

as test beds. The project will introduce risk planning into local policies and work directly with community members in an effort to strengthen disaster response and management the UNDP said.

DRM focuses on the needs of women and children by making risk education a component of community planning through workshops and integration into school curriculum. This will ensure they are armed

with knowledge about how to prepare in advance, how to respond to warnings and how to reduce risk at home and in their communities.

Over the last thirty years, natural disasters have affected five times more people around the world than they did only a generation ago. China is trying to involve community members in at-risk areas, and to spread knowledge about disaster prevention and preparedness.

Oslo experiences shared in Beijing

By He Jianwei

Sipping Norwegian water, the Beijing audience drank in the northern scenery at 'Oslo - the Fjord City Expo', an exhibit open November 27 - December 9 at Today Art Museum.

The exhibit, showing Oslo's waterfront urban development and promoting the city as a center of knowledge, culture, tourism and trade, is being held to establish and strengthen relations between business communities, educational and research institutions, cultural institutions and public authorities, Merete Agerbak-Jensen, vice mayor of Oslo and commissioner for urban development, said.

Three seminars on urban planning were held Tuesday to Thursday for attendees to exchange their Oslo and Beijing urban planning experiences.

Albania celebrate national day

By Chen Shasha

The Embassy of Albania in Beijing celebrated the country's 94th National Day, November 28.

Ambassador Maxhun Peka and his wife mingled with guests from other embassies, the Chinese government, local enterprises and the media.

Nuke talks deadlock



South Korea's chief envoy Chun Yung-Woo (right), speaks to journalists after a meeting with North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan at a restaurant in Beijing Thursday, Nov. 30, 2006. The two met after U.S. negotiator Christopher Hill left Beijing, having failed to agree on dates for six-party negotiations on North Korea's nuclear program. IC Photo



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Read Beijing Youth Daily every morning
Read the Mirror in the evening
Ten newspapers and four periodicals
New editions every year

It's Your Move

订报电话 67756666 订报网址 www.bjxhm.com.cn



Medical aid agency helps HIV patients live positive

By He Jianwei

The vast majority of patients who receive antiretroviral (ARV) treatment can live in relative health and lead fulfilling and positive lives, said Philip Tavernier, medical head of the mission of the Belgian section of Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF).

MSF, is an international humanitarian medical organization that, along with the Belgian section, the French section, the Access Campaign of MSF International, and MSF Hong Kong are all active in China. MSF-Belgium (MSF-B) has been on the mainland since 1988 and has run an HIV-AIDS project in Xiangfan, Hubei province since 2003. The MSF-B team in the field consists of 15 Chinese and two foreign staff. In the area, people became infected with the HIV virus during the 1980s and 1990s by selling their plasma.

"Our project consists of three main parts: Information-Education-Communication, Voluntary Counseling and Testing, and Medical Care and Treatment," Tavernier said.

Between the start of the project until the end of October 2006, 410 people were diagnosed as HIV positive, of whom 157 are taking a combination of three



A doctor from MSF-B trains volunteers in Xiangfan, Hubei Province.

CFP Photo

ARV drugs. "Those drugs don't treat the infection, but suppress the virus in order that the patient can recuperate his or her immunity and will not get sick through other infections," Tavernier said.

The project of MSF-B focuses specially on individual and group counseling with the aim of promoting adherence to the treatment. "If a patient doesn't take his or her drugs, he or she will not

suppress the virus that can then become resistant to those drugs. If so, they will need other drugs (second line) that cost 15 times more. Besides counseling, MSF-B gives the three drugs combined in one tablet (Fixed Dose Combination) to make it easier for the patients to take their lifetime drugs; two tablets instead of six tablets a day make a big difference," he said.

"MSF-B also treats children

and has drugs available when patients develop resistant viruses," he added.

All the activities of MSF-B are free of charge since even a low fee can block people from getting the treatment and care they need.

MSF-B plans to have a new project providing medical care for disadvantaged groups in Yunnan or Xinjiang, according to George Wu, doctor and deputy medical coordinator.

Joe Hisaishi surprises Beijing with his music

By Gan Tian

World famous Japanese musician Joe Hisaishi's Beijing debut concert will be performed in the Poly Theatre on Saturday.

Hisaishi was passionate and talkative when he arrived in Beijing on Wednesday. In his press conference he said the concert would include pieces from Hayao Miyazaki's cartoons, *Spirited Away*, *Princess Mononoke* and *Laputa: Castle in the Sky*, and Japanese director Takeshi Kitano's movie, *HANA-BI*.

"I fell in love with movies when I was four or five years old," Hisaishi said. "I watched nearly 500 movies a year. I also loved music. If you combine the two, you get what I'm doing: scores for movies."

Though this is Hisaishi's first Beijing concert, he has cooperated with Chinese musical groups before to compose music for Chinese movies *A Chinese Tale* and *The Post Modern Life of My Aunt* with the China Philharmonic. "I know something about Chinese movie music. Tan Dun's soundtrack for *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* is my favorite," he said.

Though Hisaishi works mostly on Japanese productions, has attracted attention from Europe and America through his work on *Spirited Away*, *Princess Mononoke* and *Brother*.

A feast of art and music to be hosted in Beijing

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Movement of The Unified Voice (MOTUV) Begins Here, a feast of music and art show, which involves artists from six countries, will be hosted on Friday at Beijing's 2Kolegas Bar, a venue dedicated to some of the greatest underground and mainstream acts in the Chinese music industry.

Beijing, San Francisco and Kansas City will all host the MOTUV events at 7pm on December 1 to stand up for a belief in passion, dedication, and most importantly

a renewed sense of community in and among the arts and entertainment industries, Tian Xi, MOTUV's Beijing coordinator, said.

In the Beijing event, Jodi Hargreaves from Canada, Sofie Igelstrom from Sweden, Erin Shae from United States, The Dangler from England, Melletios Kyriakidis from England, Monty Fendt from Switzerland and Dong Qing from China, will jointly show their works. Live music will be performed by popular band Lonely China Day and music figures including Nara and

Zhai Ruixin.

MOTUV is a collaborative project in time engineered to network, challenge and diffuse artists, makers, and musicians all across the world, and in the process forge a renewed sense of community in everyone it touches. The project is initiated by five American artists.

The organizers said on their website that December 1, 2007 is the second event date, and a milestone in the project with its goal of nine cities and five countries. November 22, 2008 is the last event date with a goal of 15 cities and 10 countries.

Table soccer training center opens

By Han Manman

Jointly launched by the International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF) China Delegation and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), China's first international youth training center for table soccer (also known as foosball) opened this week. The center promotes the sport among the young.

It already has 10 tables, some smaller kid-sized tables and match training activities. Song Wei, chairman of the ITSF China delegation said the center will be open for classes soon and welcomes youth

enrollment. "There are already some parents who want to send their children to receive training, mainly international families. No matter how many students sign up, the class will be opened no later than this week," Song said.

"Table soccer is an interesting sports for the young. We would like to promote it to Chinese youth and other international youth in China. Cooperating with ITSF, we will start training lessons from this week. Our goal is to select excellent players to enter China's national team

and play international tournament," Cai Kui, general director of YMCA Beijing, said.

"We spent a lot of time setting up this international training center. It is also the first of its kind in China. Our table soccer national youth team has been to Europe and joined the world cup and world championships; they won many chances", Song said. Now ranked among the top five table soccer players in the world, Song will be the first teacher of the children's class.

For more information, go to www.cbfa.com.cn

Foreign students gain experience in Western China

By Jackie Zhang

During a week spent in western China, 129 foreign students from Beijing Language and Culture University learned about the local culture, economy and lifestyle through *shehui shijian* – social practice.

These students are from 13 countries including South Korea, Japan, Indonesia and Uzbekistan," Yin Yougang, a teacher from the College of Chinese Studies at the university said, "They are all students in Grade Four. Social practice is now part of their curriculum."

Before the week-long visit, the students accepted a six-week preparation at the university, learning about methods of doing investigation and academic theories.

Taking a 34-hour train journey, students visited Lanzhou, Dunhuang and Jiayuguan City. "They listened to lectures about Dunhuang, local factories and local primary school," Yin said.

The experience in the local primary school impressed and moved these students most. "There is almost no financial support for the school at all, but the children there are lovely and warm. There has been no rain for three years. Everywhere is yellow sand, and life there is really hard," Yin said.

"We have collected some money for these children," Lee Ki Tae, a South Korean boy said. "I remember a small boy told me he had been longing to eat a bowl of instant noodles. I bought the entire stock of instant noodles from the local store in the village and gave them to him. These children have to walk for one hour every day from their homes to school – I take a taxi to school even for a journey of just five minutes. It is really a shame," Lee said.

The trip to the western part of China has given these students a chance to learn more about Chinese people and culture. Every student chose something that impressed him or her for the subject of their social practice report.

Master class with top Russian ballet

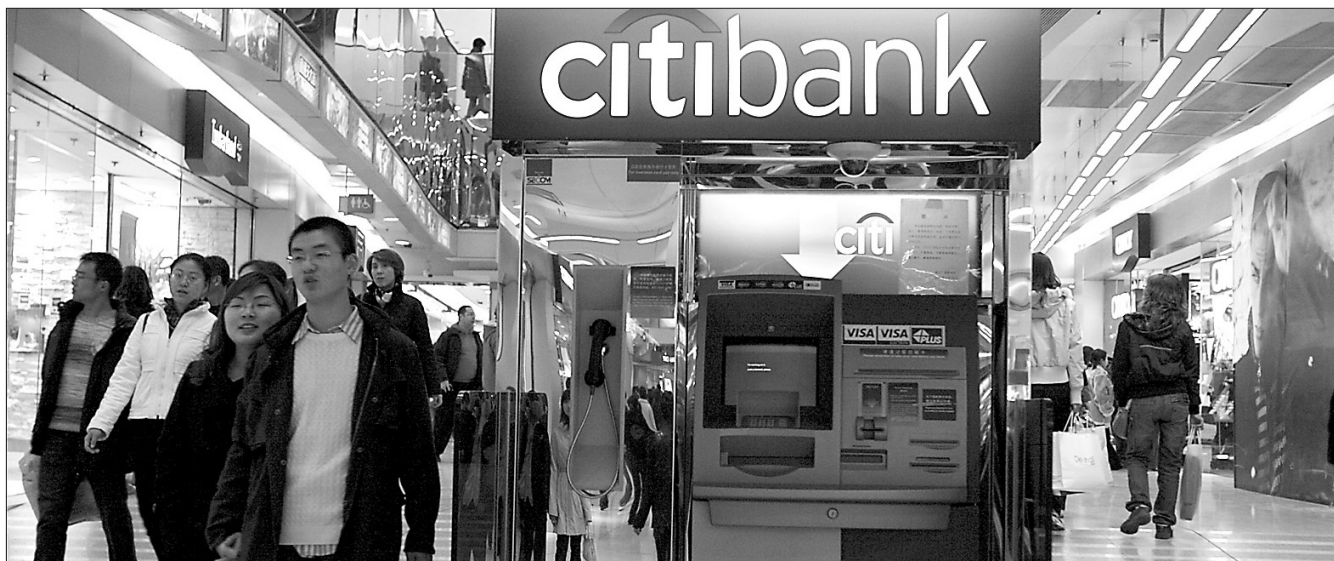
By Chen Shasha

Samara State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet, the former theatre house named by the Soviet statesman Kuibyshev, will perform *Swan Lake* at the Beijing Exhibition Center Theatre from January 1 – 3, 2007, a first time for Beijing since it was established in 1931.

The theater is one of the best in Russia, led by Nikita Dolgushin, an outstanding dancer and chief choreographer. Dolgushin's choreographic works have assimilated the essence of Russian traditional ballet, and he has been honored several times by his country as a top ballet dancer.

On the evening of December 30, Dolgushin and Andrienko Elena, leading lady of *Swan Lake*, will invite citizens to join them and learn traditional Russian ballet. Anyone who loves dancing is welcome, especially the young. Through talking and dancing, audiences will have the opportunity to grasp ballet skills and learn how to appreciate classical ballet. Anyone who interested should act quickly, because space is limited.

Call 8421 6764 and enjoy a Russian ballet master's class as a new year's gift to yourself!



Citibank's outlet in the Oriental Plaza, downtown Beijing

CFP Photo

Foreign banks open for RMB trade

By Huang Daohen

With the approach of the opening up of renminbi business to foreign banks on December 11, residents in Beijing will have the opportunity to choose a different kind of bank for their financial needs. Although Beijing has a number of foreign banks, ordinary consumers have few opportunities to know what kind of products and services they offer.

Revised rules

The rules, released by the State Council last week, showed Beijing was honoring commitments and would create an environment in which foreign lenders could thrive.

Starting December 11, more than 10 foreign banks are expected to move quickly to establish local subsidiaries and offer bank cards and mass-market banking services in renminbi.

Beijing plans to issue detailed regulations for implementation of the rules this week.

Finding foreign banks

Foreign banks have set up a number of branches in Beijing so far. The outlets mainly center on the International Trade Center, Jianguomen, Yansha, Zhongguancun and the Oriental Plaza.

Most outlets have been care-

Where you can go?

HSBC

8 Jianguomen Main Street, Dongcheng
1 Jian Guo Menwai Main Street, Chaoyang
2 Zhongguancun South Main Street, Haidian
50 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang
Citibank
7 Jianguomen Nei Main Street, Chaoyang
58 North Fourth Ring-road West Road, Haidian

50 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang
Hang Seng Bank
Kerry Centre, 1 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang
ABN (Algemene Bank Nederland)
1 East Chang'an Street, Dongcheng
1 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang
Standard Chartered Bank
1 East Chang'an Street, Dongcheng
50 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang
6 Haidian Middle St, Haidian

fully designed and feature interior decoration, which provides a more open and caring service environment.

At HSBC, for example, after entering the hall you will see its famous red hexagonal signs with the logo of "outstanding financial management." Each HSBC branch has three to four counters and eight reception rooms.

Threshold

Successfully finding a foreign bank outlet does not mean that they will necessarily be able to offer you the service you want.

At present, most foreign banks have a financial threshold. "We mainly focus on the business of middle or high income staff," one Western banker said.

Citibank, for example, initially had a threshold of US\$100,000 in its Shanghai branch, which was later lowered to US\$50,000. East Asia Bank's financial threshold is relatively low, at US\$400 for deposit and US\$5,000 for fiscal investment.

Financial service

Fully experienced in the operation of the global financial market,

foreign banks have a unique advantage in service and product design.

Citibank's financial product design, for example, has characteristics of both sophistication and diversity.

"This year, we introduced over 20 new concepts in financial products," manager Wang from Citibank Liangmaqiao branch said.

The personalized service is another competitive advantage.

"If you go to open an account in a foreign bank, the manager might shake hands with you and exchange business cards, which makes you feel respected," one customer said.

Have your own account

To open a bank account at a foreign bank is not complicated. You only need to carry your identity card or passport, together with your address. The procedure can be finished in 10 minutes.

Unlike Chinese banks, foreign banks are allowed to open an account with a zero deposit. However, your account will be canceled if no money is deposited within three months.

For the upcoming renminbi business, Liu Jingguo, HSBC Yansha branch president, said that specific products are already underway.

ASK Beijing Today

1. I heard individuals are not allowed to own their own personal guns in China. Is that true? And are there some special exceptions for people to own their own guns?

It's true that the majority of individuals in China are not allowed to own guns, but a few organizations, apart from the police of course, can own a gun after approval from related authorities. These organizations are mainly sports centers with shooting ranges, hunting areas and other institutes that work in wild animal protection or research.

2. I saw a Chinese soap opera the other day in Beijing. During a wedding, the bride had to marry a chicken. What's that all about?

This used to be an old custom popular in the south-east coastal part of China, especially among the fishing families. On a wedding day, if the groom went fishing and could not be back home because of a storm, the groom's family would ask the bride to finish the wedding ceremony with a chicken. The chicken was kept in the bedroom until the groom was safely back from the ocean. If the groom died at sea, the bride was supposed to remain a widow and not marry again.

3. Can Beijing Today give me some tips to help with my Chinese?

First of all, you could watch CCTV 1-8, to help you pick up a standard accent. Also, just for you, here are some websites that you can use to improve your comprehension and listening.

www.chinesepod.com
www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/real_chinese
www.china.org.cn/english/features/Lesson/151243.htm
www.zhongwen.com

(By Wei Ying)

N

W

今日北京

BEIJING TODAY

Winter Promotion

English



Subscribe for one year: ¥104.00, and choose either:

1. 3.3 fashion plaza coupon worth RMB100 yuan (available for the first 150 subscribers).
2. Three-month China ClubFootball membership (available for the first 500 subscribers).
3. One week free trial card for O-Zone Fitness Club (worth RMB 380 yuan and available for the first 500 subscribers).

Add: Floor 6, Zhubang 2000 Building, Phase 2, No.99 Balizhuang Xili, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8586 5577

If you do not want to take up any of the offers, pay just: RMB 88.00 for 13 months subscription.

Subscription Promotion

Subscription Hotline: 010-6590 2626
btsubscription@ynet.com
Promotion ends on 31st December, 2006



Huang Lei in make-up



The director of Secret Love talks to his cast



Stan Lai brings salad for his daughter



Yuan Quan has her hair braided ready to go on stage



The cast make a wish



Xie Na plays Chunhua in Peach Blossom Land



The Fisherman's wife, Chunhua, has affair with the Fishmonger



He Jiong as the Man in White in Peach Blossom Land

A new generation of Chinese Secret Love Peach Blossom



The Fishmonger and Fisherman's wife would both like to see the Fisherman dead

By He Jianwei

This is a play about the rehearsals of two plays on the same stage at the same time. One is a modern tragedy, *Secret Love*, about a man in Taiwan longing for his first lover in Shanghai 50 years ago; the other is a comedy, *Peach Blossom Land*, about a fisherman going upstream to escape from the torment of his unfaithful wife and her lover, a fishmonger.

Stan Lai's re-staging of the modern classic *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* has been one of the most eagerly anticipated events in Beijing theater, and now it's finally here.

The play is considered a masterpiece of contemporary Chinese theater, but when the original cast first heard the title, they complained to the director that it wasn't even grammatical. When 'grammatically incorrect' *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* premiered in Taiwan 20 years ago, a new and strange flower bloomed in the Chinese theater garden. Combining modern and period costume, current affairs and

classical literature, tragedy and comedy, riotous laughter and silent tears, this collage, made from the fabric of distraction, wrote its own grammar.

Twenty years on, after many performances in Taiwan, international tours, an award-winning film adaptation and amateur and student performances and videos seen in the Chinese mainland, countless new audiences have fallen under the spell of this unique work, changing their views on theater, on art, and even on life itself.

Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land has enjoyed both critical acclaim and solid box office success in China. There have been over 50 unauthorized productions in Beijing alone. The film version has become a standard text for film and theater students, and there are even many fan clubs for the piece.

The play's one-week run on the Beijing stage has brought many young people to the theater for the first time. *Beijing Today* spoke to members of the cast and crew, and some of the audience.

"The young generation should throw themselves into theater to absorb its culture."

— Stan Lai, creator and director of the play

One of the most influential playwrights and directors in Asia, Stan Lai (Lai Shengchuan) is known for his award-winning films. He is widely regarded as one of the most important voices in contemporary Chinese-language theater. He is artistic director of the Taiwanese theater group Performance Workshop, a collective of some of the finest performers in the Chinese language.

In Taiwan, it was *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* more than any other play that created the modern theater audience. Stan Lai hopes the work can achieve similar results in Beijing. "Since ancient times, theater has had characteristics of mystery and ritual.

Preview

Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land will have a second run in December

Where: PLA Opera Theater, the southeast corner of Jishuitanqiao, North Second Ring Road, No 60 Deshengmennei Dajie

When: December 22 to January 6, 2007 (No performance on December 28)

Admission: 100-680 yuan, 30-50 yuan (student concessions)

Grammar of theater

Love in Peach Blossom Land



Photos by Li Yan and Gao Yuan

The theater plays a fundamental social role and is a profound part of culture. The young generation should throw themselves into theater to absorb its culture" Lai said.

"Modern life makes everyone fickle. People are unwilling to stop and think. The best we can do is to raise awareness of theater and culture," he said.

English captions make the play accessible to non-Chinese theatergoers at the Beijing performances. "We are looking forward to the foreign communities in Beijing enjoying Chinese theater as well, so we can show them how great it can be," said Lai.

"We should feel the life of the theater the moment we take the stage."

— He Jiong, actor

He Jiong plays Fishmonger Yuan in the *Peach Blossom Land* part of the piece. He is a popular TV host and famous for his comedy skills.

Although his part is essentially

comic, He Jiong believes that every role in *Peach Blossom Land* will evoke pity. "Fishmonger Yuan's *Peach Blossom Land*, or Utopian fantasy, is to live with the Fisherman's wife, Chunhua. However, once they do live together, he discovers the reality is not what he wished for and his dream is shattered."

Drama is something sacred for He Jiong. "The director told us theater has breath. We should feel its life from the moment we take the stage," he said.

He was pleased with the play's box office success. "It is good for the young generation to get into the habit of going to the theater. It is a great medium for the audience to communicate with actors, and it also can inspire an actor's creativity," he added.

He Jiong thinks non-Chinese theatergoers will enjoy the play as well, "The play reflects native China well. It is set in two of the most beautiful periods in Chinese history: the Jin Dynasty (256-420) and the 1930s and 1940s in Shanghai. The actors' costumes are also beautiful."

"It's a dream come true for me to see *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* finally performed on a Beijing stage."

— Yuan Hong, producer

Yuan Hong, the producer of *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land*, has spent a decade planning and producing plays in China.

"It's a dream come true for me to see *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* finally performed on a Beijing stage," Yuan Hong says. He put in a lot of effort over a long time to make this happen, such as arranging dates when the all-star cast were available to perform.

The Beijing shows have turned a healthy profit. However, Yuan believes more important than making money is the boost the show can give to theater culture, though he says, "We should spread theater culture gradually. More haste, less speed."



The Fishmonger lays on the charm, seducing the Fisherman's wife



A pair of lovers meet in a dream

Review

"The play is a good text to train actors' performing skills."

— Jian Ning, a booking agent

Jian Ning, a talent booking agent, had only ever read the play before.

"The structure and script of the play really astonished me," Jian said after watching the play again, "The structure is unique, because it is a play about two plays, a tragedy and a comedy. The adjustments to the script for these Beijing performances were quite proper, because they made it more relevant for the local audience."

Jian Ning studied acting in college. He explained why many college students want to put on versions of the play. "The play is a good text to train actors' performing skills. In *Secret Love*, the actors perform a range of ages from young to old. In *Peach Blossom Land*, the actors have to learn how to control and relax to give power to their performance."

"The influence of the play spread by word of mouth."

— Liu Yixuan, director of university drama society

Liu Yixuan is director of the student drama society at Northwest University of Political Science and Law in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province. She and other members of the society came to Beijing specially to watch the play.

Liu Yixuan and her society plan to rehearse the play themselves. "The play leaves plenty of room for the actors, the playwrights and the directors, because of its complex structure and closeness to real life," she said.

"Maybe it will take time for our generation to understand what crying whilst laughing and laughing through the tears mean, but we love a play that can make us think, and keep thinking after we've left the theater," she said.

"I want to see the play again."

— Jennifer Udden, a student

Jennifer Udden, a student from the United States currently at Beijing Foreign Studies University, is a big fan of theater.

As a non-native Chinese speaker, Jennifer said the English captions helped her understand the play better.

The unique structure of the play brought her to the theater. "I knew that this play has a complex setup: a play containing two plays," Jennifer said.

"It was great! I want to see it one more time. The tragedy and comedy are quite well matched. I really enjoyed the play, especially having both of them played on stage at the same time," she added.



By Thomas E Ricks
496pp, The Penguin Press HC,
US\$16.77 (Amazon)
Synopsis

Last week, 250 people were killed in Iraq in the most deadly week since the US-led invasion began in 2003.

For readers seeking a thorough analysis of how the US thrust itself into Iraq and created the insurgent crisis it now combats, *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq*, by Thomas E. Ricks, reporter for *The Washington Post*, presents possible answers.

Fiasco asks hard questions like who is responsible for the current sit-

uation in Iraq. While it may be popular to pin the blame on big names like Bush and Rumsfeld, Ricks goes deeper and attacks Democratic congressmen who failed to oversee the administration, and the media, especially *The New York Times*, who totally failed in its role as watchdog in the war's early stages.

Ricks takes a palette of five years of headlines and interviews with military personnel and paints a clear picture of where the US started going wrong, and what little has been done to correct the nation's course of catastrophe.

Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq

What is the most critical error the US has made since its decision to invade Iraq?

As the insurgency deepened, the Pentagon's military and civilian leaders first ignored it, then worsened it by using wrongheaded tactics. By emphasizing killing the enemy rather than winning over the people, the US military made new enemies more quickly than it eliminated existing foes. Mass arrests and other attempts to intimidate Iraqis backfired, swelling the insurgents' ranks. US units and troops deployed to Iraq turned over quickly, shuttling in and out of the country with little attempt to build a coherent intelligence picture of the situation on the ground or to sustain hard-won relationships with the local Iraqi officials trying to make their country work.

— Daniel Byman, *Washington Post Book World*

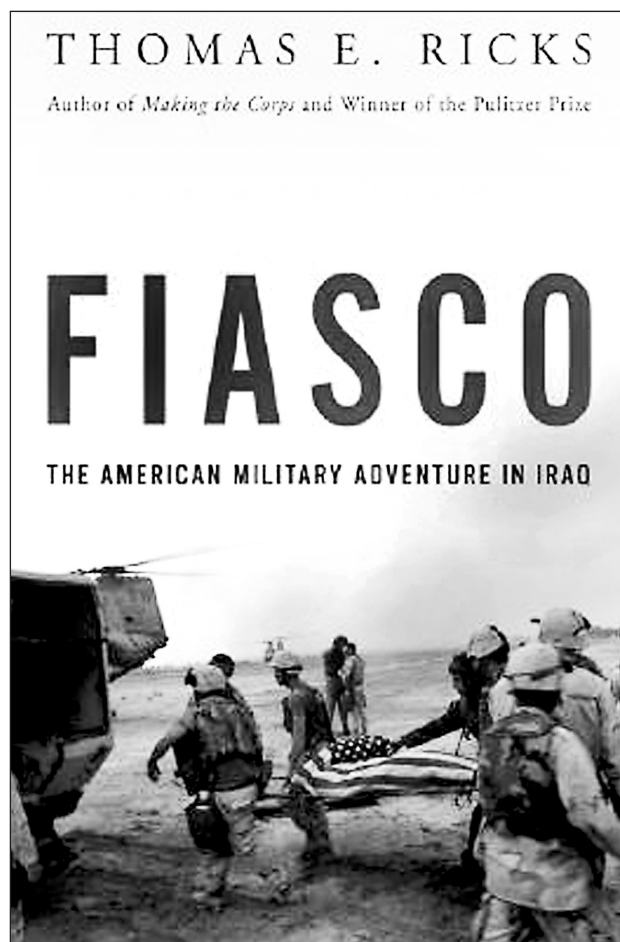
So there was nothing done to prepare for insurgency?

The US military has forgotten many of the lessons of counterinsurgency warfare that it learned bitterly in Vietnam and elsewhere. Having neglected counterinsurgency in the military's training and education programs, we should not be shocked that we are ill-equipped to wage it.

— Daniel Byman

Did the USA have a plan for what it would do after invading Iraq?

An after-action review from the Third Infantry Division underscores the Pentagon's paucity of postwar planning, stating that there was no guidance for restoring order in Baghdad, creating an interim government, hiring government and essential services employees, and ensuring that the judicial system was operational. And an end-of-tour report by a colonel assigned to the Coalition Provisional



Authority memorably summarized his office's work as "pasting feathers together, hoping for a duck."

— Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times*

With all this "wonderful" groundwork, why did support for the occupation crash as hard as it did?

Mr Rumsfeld's stubborn reluctance to acknowledge a growing insurgency and his resistance to making adjustments, Mr Ricks says, contributed further to the military's problems on the ground. A continuing shortage of troops meant that borders could not be sealed, armament caches could not be secured, and security and basic services could not be restored. As a conse-

quence support for the occupation rapidly dwindled among the Iraqis.

— Michiko Kakutani
Where does the blame land in Ricks's eyes?

Fiasco pulls no punches. Sure enough, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz and Feith come off badly in Ricks's account. But so do most Democratic members of Congress (whom Ricks labels not doves but "lambs" for their failure to oversee the executive branch) and the media, particularly *The New York Times*, which failed miserably to probe the Bush administration's war justifications and postwar planning.

— Daniel Byman

So the media did little to probe US planning. What may have turned up

had they probed deeper?

Ricks argues that the invasion of Iraq "was based on perhaps the worst war plan in American history," an incomplete plan that "confused removing Iraq's regime with the far more difficult task of changing the entire country." The result of going in with too few troops and no larger strategic plan, he says, was "that the US effort resembled a banana republic *coup d'état* more than a full-scale war plan that reflected the ambition of a great power to alter the politics of a crucial region of the world."

— Michiko Kakutani

***Fiasco* does a great job covering the causes of the war. What will you not find in this book?**

"*Fiasco* does not possess the dramatic combat details of *Cobra II* by Michael R. Gordon (chief military correspondent for *The New York Times*) and Bernard E. Trainor (a retired Marine Corps lieutenant general and former military correspondent for *The Times*), but unlike that book, which basically ends in the summer of 2003, it goes on to chronicle America's flailing efforts to contain a metastasizing insurgency over the next three years.

— Michiko Kakutani

What ultimate lesson does Ricks aim to teach about the Iraq fiasco?

Hubris, the ancient Greeks taught, is followed by Nemesis; overbearing presumption always finds the goddess of divine retribution and vengeance baying at its heels. Washington is learning that painful lesson again today — and Iraqi civilians and American troops are paying the price for the pride that drove the United States to try to implant democracy on the cheap in the heart of the Arab world.

— Daniel Byman

(By Derrick Sobodash)

Local shelf

Welcome to the Monkey House

By Kurt Vonnegut
The Dial Press, 352 pages, 120 yuan

Welcome to the Monkey House is a collection of Kurt Vonnegut's shorter works. Originally printed in publications as diverse as *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* and *The Atlantic Monthly*, these superb stories exhibit Vonnegut's audacious sense of humor and extraordinary range of creative vision.

This book is a collection of 25 short stories. They may seem simple, but if you look below the surface, you'll find them extremely deep. His stories would make good starters for a reading circle. While professional, they're neither extraordinary nor unique.

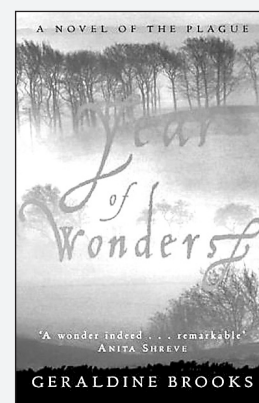
Wide Sargasso Sea

By Jean Rhys
W W Norton, 192 pages, 120 yuan

Jean Rhys, the troubled 1920s author far ahead of her time, felt a strange kinship with Antoinette or Bertha Mason, the madwoman locked in the attic in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*.

Sargasso is in no way a rewrite or adaptation of *Eyre*. In *Eyre*, the madwoman is not really a character, she's a symbol for evil, for carnal and worldly desires yielded to without regard for the soul. *Sargasso* develops the madwoman into a character. Rhys slyly copies the beautiful symmetry of *Eyre*, where events occur in a sort of repetition; in *Eyre*, the heroine must leave a hostile home and find a haven, which then becomes hostile because it fails to nourish her soul with love.

Year of Wonders



By Geraldine Brooks
Fourth Estate, 320 pages, 120 yuan

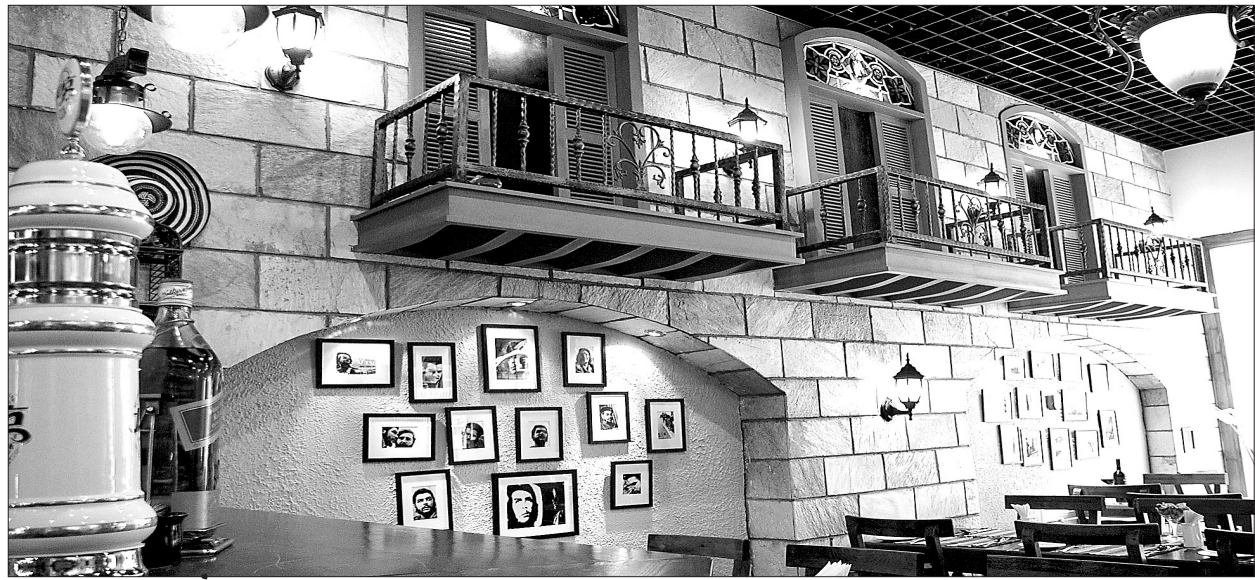
Geraldine Brooks's *Year of Wonders* describes the 17th-century plague carried from London to a small Derbyshire village by an itinerant tailor. As the villagers begin to die, one by one, the town faces a choice. Do they flee their village in hope of outrunning the plague or do they stay? The lord of the manor and his family pack and leave, but the rector, Michael Mompellion, argues forcefully that the villagers should stay put, isolate themselves from neighboring towns and villages and prevent the contagion from spreading. His oratory wins the day and the village turns in on itself.

Available:
Beijing Bookworm
Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang
Tel: 6586 9507

(By Han Manman)

By Chu Meng

Tired of finding the same restaurants on every street? Why not be adventurous, and give one of these four places a try? They're all that bit different from the run-of-the-mill Sichuan hotpot or Thai curry emporium.



A-Che's interior

Photo provided by A-Che

Be cool, be unique

Havana great night out chez Che



A-Che's classic Saffron Seafood Paella

Photo provided by A-Che

By Gan Tian

Walking into the A-Che bar is like hitting a Caribbean beach. There's sunshine, beautiful people, bikinis, and hot, hot music. But there's something else too: the presiding spirit of international revolutionary poster child Che Guevara and all that's best about the Cuban way of life.

The food is classic Carib-

bean Creole fusion, with a liberal sprinkling of French and Spanish dishes. We recommend the Classic Saffron Seafood Paella (100 yuan), a mouth-watering combination of rice, chicken and seafood. Shrimp Creole (98 yuan) and Grilled Red Snapper (68 yuan) are alternative treats for seafood-lovers with the succulent Uruguay Steak (78 yuan).

There are more than 50 kinds of spirits, wines and aperitifs at the bar, which owner Sheng Taotao says aren't found in any other city watering holes. "I get them sent specially from Cuba," she says. There's a tippie for pretty much every taste.

The lovely Sheng reminded me to tell our readers that A-Che is offering a Christmas Creole Set for the holiday

season, so if you fancy a Caribbean Christmas, you know where to go.

A-Che bar and restaurant

Where: F/1, Gangwan Guoji, No. 28, Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-2am

Tel: 6427 2201, 6417 7488

(Chinese, English and Spanish)

Cost: 100 yuan per person

City's first Greek restaurant

By Chu Meng

The Athena Greek Restaurant-Bar in the Sanlitun embassy area may be the first of its type in China. The restaurant has been spruced-up recently ready for the Christmas season.

It took the urging of the Greek ambassador to convince the Athena to open a restaurant in Beijing.

The Hellenistic atmosphere is enhanced by a thoughtful

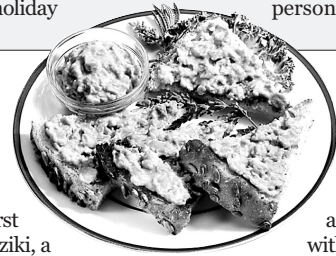
collection of paintings and photographs showing the beauty of Athens and the island of Crete.

The chef is from Greece. Patrons are treated to a free glass of wine and dessert accompanied by Greek music.

The food made a great impression on my Chinese palate, which was trying Greek favorites such as Gyros (grilled lamb pieces on pita bread), Moussaka (oven-baked layers of eggplant, minced meat and grated cheese)

and Souvlaki (beef, pork or lamb kebabs on pita bread or rice with traditional garnishes) for the first time. The homemade Tzatziki, a cold appetizer of yogurt, cucumber, garlic and olive oil, was a clean and pleasing starter. Seafood lovers will enjoy the Calamari, squid filled with rice, onion, peppers, raisins and coconut.

Be sure to leave room for dessert, including milk pie with syrup (or



Athena's Souvlaki

ice cream), walnut cake with chocolate sauce and Halvas, a traditional 'afters' with semolina.

Athena Greek Restaurant-Bar

Where: 1 West 5 Street, Sanlitun

Open: 11am-11pm

Tel: 6464 6036

Cost: 150 yuan per person

Photo provided by Athena Greek



Java and Yangon's set food
Photo provided by Java and Yangon's

By Chu Meng

Indonesian food has long been one of the most popular cuisines in South-East Asia, but despite this, and the huge number of Western expats in Beijing who have also fallen in love

Java and Yangon's: two classic Asian cuisines

with the cuisine, Beijing lacked a genuine Indonesian restaurant until Java and Yangon's opened its doors.

Chefs Peter Supratman from Indonesia and Kyaw Lwan Oo from Myanmar work a little culinary magic that will delight Beijingers whether Chinese or expat. Burmese food shares similarities with Indian and Thai cuisine.

The restaurant was the brainchild of British restaurateur Victor Raj, who

also owns Victor's Place and Little Italy, both at the Pinnacle Plaza in Shunyi. He married Adele from Myanmar, and so of course knows all about Burmese cuisine.

The prices are modest and tailored to suit your budget. Hugely popular is the weekdays set lunch at 38 yuan per person, 128 yuan for two or three persons, and 228 yuan for four or five persons. The a la carte menu provides

a wide variety of dishes.

Java and Yangon's

Where: Sanlitun Xiwujie, Chaoyang (directly behind the German Embassy)

Open: 11:30am-2:30pm,

4:30pm-10:30pm

Tel: 8451 7489

Cost: 100 yuan per person

Catering and Parties:

Call Victor Raj 137 0126 5314

Persian poetry in the kitchen

By Huang Daohen

Rumi, named after the famous mid-13th century poet, is the first restaurant in Beijing to serve authentic Persian cuisine. "I love Rumi's poetry and have many collections of his work," says Fariborz Mohebat, the Iranian owner.

Despite honoring a medieval master of words, the Rumi has a

strictly modern feel and its decor is crisp and clean.

Persian cuisine is characterized by the use of herbs and other natural fragrances, which are believed beneficial to health. It's a cuisine that prizes sour flavors such as pomegranate, a dried crushed sour red berry, and green herbs.

The restaurant is famous for its kabob dishes, also known as Iranian

barbecue. "In Iran, people go out to enjoy kabob rather than making it at home, because cooking it is very complicated and you need high quality ingredients," Mohebat said.

The menu focuses on beef, lamb, chicken and fish kabobs. The chicken leg kabob is succulent, tender and juicy, marinated in a mix of saffron and lemon juice. Vegetarians can make a

hearty meal with delicious salads.

For dessert, why not try the delicate baklava stuffed with cardamom and walnuts – an absolute delight.

Rumi

Where: 29 Wuligou, Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang

Open: 11am-11pm

Tel: 8454 3838

Cost: 70-100 yuan per person

Gift with purchase

Buy any pair of shoes from the Hush Puppies stand in the Shuang An shopping mall (38 Beisanhuan Xilu, Haidian) and you'll get a great gift to go with them. For details, call 8214 8000.



Gift with purchase

Buy any cosmetics from the Biotherm line up at the Zhong You shopping center (176 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) and get a free bottle of olive cream. For details, call 6601 8899.



Sixty-two percent off

Selected jewelry items at SOGO (8 Xuanwumenwai Dajie, Xuanwu) are 62 percent off list price until December 3. Spend over 100 yuan and you'll get a voucher worth 80 yuan against future purchases. For details, call 6310 3388.



Voucher worth 60 yuan

Spend over 100 yuan at SOGO (8 Xuanwumenwai Dajie, Xuanwu) and you will get a voucher worth 60 yuan. Offer lasts until December 3. For details, call 6310 3388.



Half price

All pizzas at Mr. Pizza (26 Pufanglu, Fangzhuang, Chaoyang) are half price until December 1. For details, call 8768 3242.



Five to twenty percent off

Books from Di San Ji bookstore (66 Beishihuan Xilu, Haidian) are five to 20 percent off cover price until December 3. For details, call 5128 2300.



A third off

Eat at the Lai Fo Shi Dong 33 restaurant in the Beijing Hotel (33 Dong Changanjie, Dongcheng) and enjoy 33 percent off the usual meal price. For details, call 6526 3388 ext. 5171.



Thirty percent off

Get your hair done at the Ka Er Shi salon (Huaweili, Panjiayuan, Chaoyang) at 30 percent less than the standard price until December 3. For details, call 8777 3320.



Voucher worth 208 yuan

Spend over 200 yuan at the Xin Hua shopping mall (Jishuitan, Xicheng) and get a voucher worth 208 yuan. Offer lasts until December 3. For details, call 8222 4800.



Twenty to thirty percent off

Selected apparel by Azona at the Shuang An shopping mall (38 Beisanhuan Xilu, Haidian) is 20-30 percent off. For details, call 8214 8000.



Twenty percent off

Buy a cream pie at Wei Duo Mei bakery (58 Xizhimen Beidajie, Haidian) and enjoy 20 percent off until December 3. For details, call 8229 1930.



Voucher worth 188 yuan

Spend over 180 yuan at the Jun Tai shopping mall (133 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) and get a voucher worth 188 yuan. Offer lasts until December 3. For details, call 800 810 2185.



(By Terence Lu)

Send us your discounts & offers.
Email us: bjtoday@ynet.com
or call: 6590 2626

ADVERTISE IN
BEIJING TODAY

PLACE YOUR ADVERT NOW AND
GET INSTANT RESULTS!

Call: Jian Zhong 139 0135 4788
Xiao'ang 133 8106 4865

Get into the holiday spirit!

*Enjoy a special holiday Afternoon Tea Buffet,
or drink in the spirit of the season with a sip
of champagne at the Mezzanine Lounge!*

Cheers!

Join us for Hotel Kunlun's winter wonderland Christmas Eve!
Contact our ticket counter at 65903388-5218 for details!

WORLDHOTELS
HOTEL KUNLUN
2 Xin Yuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100020 CHINA Tel: 86-40-65903388 Fax: 86-10-65903228 / 65903214
E-mail: kunlun@public.china.net.cn <http://www.hotelkunj.com>

A simple life is a better life

By Jackie Zhang

More and more young Chinese people are leading lives of luxury. They take taxi instead of cycling or riding the bus; eat out instead of cook in; buy name brand apparel instead of whatever is the best value.

However, pop culture always has two faces, and a group who call themselves Kukouzu (the cool, frugal tribe) have chosen to lead economical lives, taking every opportunity to save money.

I am a member of Kukou

Jin Yu is a Beijing girl who works for a cartoon magazine. "I've lived a frugal life since I was young," she said.

Jin's office is on Gulou Jie, Dongcheng District in the center of Beijing. Her home is in Daxing District, a southern suburb of Beijing. "I prefer taking public transportation rather than a taxi," Jin said. Every day, she spends around one and half hours getting to work. "I get up at six and arrive home about half-past-seven every day," Jin said. She walks wherever she needs to go if the distance is short, and only in an emergency does she hail a cab.

For her daily

lunch, Jin takes food from home. "It costs a lot to eat in restaurants every day," she said. Planning her frugal lifestyle helps her save 60 percent of her monthly salary. "Generally speaking, I can save that much as long as nothing unusual happens," she said.

"It's a lifestyle choice," Jin said. "Of course my friends sometimes complain my life is too frugal. There are lots of people around me who lead lives of luxury, but I don't think there's a right or wrong way for people to live: just what they choose. I like my life. I'd like to save money however I can. It makes me feel happy, satisfied and comfortable."

Zhang Yan, a tourism company employee in Tongzhou District, is also a frugal girl. "I think

it has something to do with a person's family background and childhood," she said.

"I rarely go to big shopping centers to buy clothes and shoes, but some small stores and markets. There, I can buy lots of nice, cheap clothes there. When it comes to phones, I prefer my desk-phone to my mobile phone, and I use a mobile service to let me answer calls for free."

"It's not necessary to spend too much money in my life to buy expensive clothes from famous brands, and other things like magazines, necklaces and food. Money should be spent only on important things," Jin said. "I'm a frugal person, but that doesn't mean I'm stingy. When my friends are in trouble, I'm always happy to lend them money; when I get the chance to continue my studies, I'll also spend money on school and books."

"Saving money doesn't mean we care about money a lot. I think we save money and lead a frugal life to show we care about our lives. We know how to live better, and how to spend money the right way at the right time," Zhang said.



Learn from developed countries

are actually being generous to others," she said.

Tips on how to live a frugal life from 43things.com

- Take 20 percent of what you earn and put it in your piggy bank.

- Lend some of your money to other people that you trust and who you know will return it whenever you need it.

- Take out all your cash out of your bank account – the bank charges are ridiculous – or get a bank with very low charges.

- Make sure you have a budget that you will stick to. I use a percentage: only 60 percent of what I earn can be used on expenses.

- Check if it's really necessary for you to get what you want. Must you spend money on it? Can you get it anywhere else cheaper but with the same quality?

- Try and forget that you have money, even if you just got a bonus.

– FirstPrince

I believe this takes some sacrificing. You can't always have what you want, but saving money is possible. I work three jobs to pay my bills, and I am really good at saving money. I've never been one to go out and spend money. I usually save money for something I 'really' want. Then, by the time I save enough, I don't want it anymore.

– Jivickie

The Seattle-based website 43things.com allows people to publish their life goals online, and helps them try to achieve them. On the website, people communicate and exchange experiences about different topics.

In the area for saving money, around 6,000 people have said one of their goals is to save money and leave their money-saving tips and experiences. A netizen called MakeitSaveit, a Toronto girl named Cameron and a bank employee, is one of the most active members.

On her personal website, makeitsaveit.com, she has published several articles on how to save money when buying a used car, traveling, and how to budget health care and meals.

"I research with friends and family and the Internet for savings tips and try to apply the advice I have found as often as possible on website," she said. "It's important to live within your means and avoid the temptation to get into debt. It really takes discipline at first but after a while you make a habit of it."

Cameron thinks that frugality is a good quality to have. "We live in a finite world and we should use our resources to the fullest. Waste is inexcusable."

Cameron believes frugal people are showing love for their neighbor by making sure there is something more for others. "By being frugal we

A guidebook: 66 Ways to Save Money

There are also organizations people to save money. The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) issued a brochure called 66 Ways to Save Money.

The brochure, developed by a working group of representatives from government agencies, consumer groups, business organizations and educational institutions, has 66 money-saving tips sorted in six categories including transportation, insurance, banking and credit, housing, utilities and others. For people who lead frugal lives or want to save money, the book is a useful guide.

Over the past decade, nearly two million copies of this brochure have been requested. At present, the publication is among the most popular available from the Federal Citizen Information Center (FCIC). The brochure is distributed in English and Spanish by the CFA and the FCIC.

Tips from 66 Ways to Save Money

Gasoline – You can save up to US\$100 a year on gas by keeping your engine tuned and your tires inflated to their proper pressure.

Renting a place to live – Do not limit your rental housing search to classified ads or referrals from friends and acquaintances. Select buildings where you would like to live and contact the building manager or owner to see if anything is available.

Funeral arrangements – Plan ahead. Put your requested funeral, memorial and burial arrangements in writing to save your family or estate unnecessary expense.

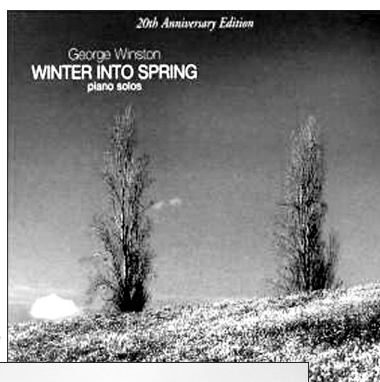
You can Google 66 Ways to Save Money for a downloadable PDF.

Winter is coming ...

By Gan Tian

This is the season I hate the most – it's so cold, and everyone has to bundle-up under a dozen layers to beat back the cold. I can't find any beauty in winter! However, there are a few items that can keep us warm ... and happy.

Winter into Spring



Saran wrap



Dog-patterned quilt



Cartoon slippers

Cartoon slippers

Slipping these on won't turn you into Cinderella, but with these slippers, you can be Hello Kitty, Astroboy, Sailor Moon or a flying pig. Fairy tales are always heartwarming, aren't they?

Available: Opposite of Watsons, B/1, 77 Street, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 25 yuan per pair

Shufeixie boots

Even if the name sounds a little dumb, your feet won't mind. A pair will keep your toes toasty throughout the winter, but you know what? I hate talking about all this footwear stuff. It makes me think of smelly feet.

Available: A18, New World Shoe's Town, Xidan, Xicheng

Price: 399 yuan

Massaging shoes

If you're trying to avoid stinky feet, these might help out. They may not be terribly attractive, but their rhythm will make you feel like you have a sexy lady massaging your feet. Enough about feet for this week ...

Available: B/1, Beichen Shopping Center, Yayuncun, Chaoyang

Price: 450 yuan

Electric hot-water bottle

"Twinkle twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are!" These hot water bottles are the kinds of things I always wanted to cut apart when I was a little kid. I always wondered what made the water hot ...

Available: Girl's Shop, No 147, Xijiekou Nandajie, Xicheng

Price: 45 yuan

Dog-patterned quilt

Difficult to guess what it is at first sight? Well, it's a quilt wrapped up in a lovely dog-print bag. If this isn't enough to keep your warm at night, you can go find a real dog.

Available: Xuelai Bed Stuff, No 109, Xijiekou Nandajie, Xicheng

Price: 355 yuan

Saran wrap

I'm not crazy. You can use it to keep the elements from harming your fruits and vegetables, and you can use it to keep them from harming you. Cut a piece and wrap it around your knees and arms; it can take the sting out of the winter wind. Sadly, I can't recommend using it on your face, and besides, it's bad for your skin.

Available: All supermarkets
Cost: between 2 yuan to 5 yuan

A Chance of Sunshine

Jimmy Liao's lovely cartoons always show the best times in our lives.

In *Sunshine*, he tells a love story using colorful pictures and warm words. Hopefully the dream of this story happening in your own life will keep you warm at night.

Available: F/4, Beijing Book Store, No 179, Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng

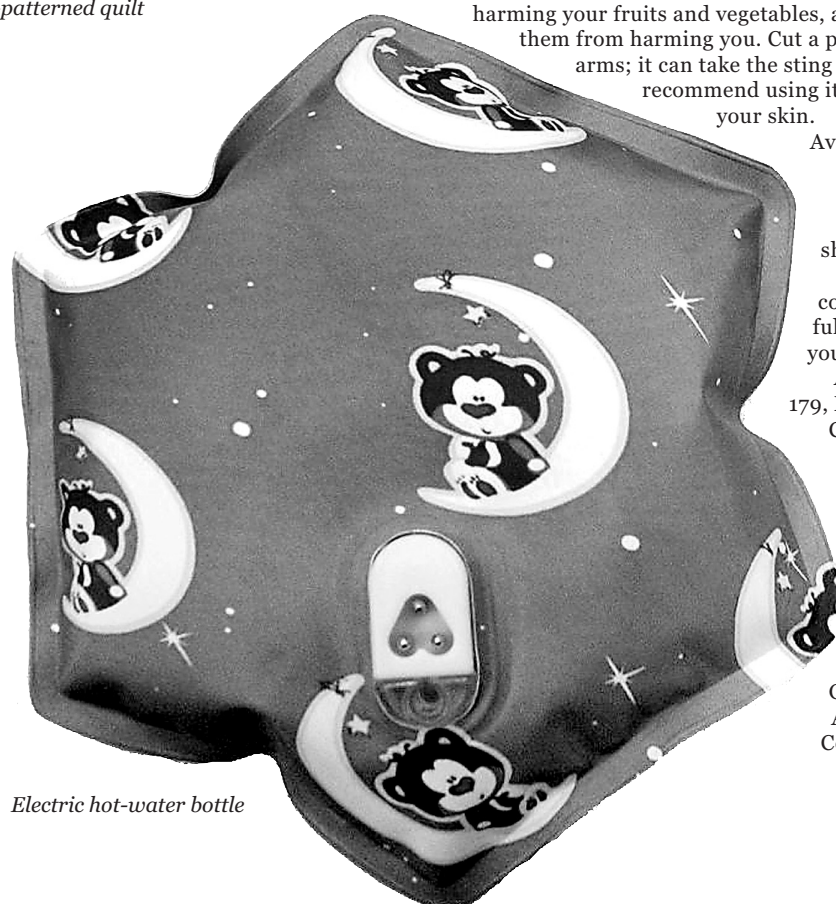
Cost: 24 yuan

Winter into Spring

This piano collection by George Winston reminds me of Percy Bysshe Shelley's quote, "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" The music has an exciting tempo and can create a romantic atmosphere on cold nights.

Give it a try!
Available: www.taobao.com
Cost: 20 yuan

Electric hot-water bottle



Shufeixie boots



Massaging shoes



A Chance of Sunshine

By Huang Daohen

Holiday cheer, sparkling snowflakes and ice-skating aren't the only things coming this winter: cold weather ushers in the sniffles, sneezes and coughs of flu and cold season. Winter, if people fail to take precautions, can also be a time of illness and injury. Take time to winter-proof your mind and body and keep the cold at bay.

Winterize your mind and body

Winter~proof your mind

Can fevers cause brain damage? False!

More than 100 viruses can cause colds, the world's most common illness, so few can escape getting at least one. "In China, most people average about three colds every year," Yang Guohua, Peking University Health Center professor, says.

Yang says a fever cannot cause brain damage unless it climbs over 41.6 C (around 107 F). Fever can create febrile seizures, but those are caused by how fast your body temperature rises, not by the temperature itself.

Fever helps our immune systems get rid of infection, so in most cases, it's best not to interfere. Your behavior is the best indicator of how severe your illness is – not a number on the thermometer – so be sure to follow the printed instructions or the doctor's orders.

Do cold medicines and antibiotics relieve coughs?

There are times when this statement may be either true or false, Yang says.

A cough isn't just a nuisance: it's an important reflex that keeps irritants and germs from getting into the lungs. While a cough may seem bothersome, it can keep mucus from draining down into tiny crevices in the lungs where it can worsen infection and interfere with the body's ability to get enough oxygen.

Most respiratory infections are viral, so unless your lab results indicate otherwise, don't pressure your doctor for antibiotics, Yang says. It's important to recognize discharge from runny noses may change color. Yellow-green mucus is actually part of the normal course of an illness, and does not necessarily mean that you have a sinus infection – unless it persists longer than two weeks.

Winter~proof your body

Nurturing the immune system

Ginseng

Ginseng is widely considered the most effective herbal tonic for your immune system. Safe and inexpensive, it helps the immune system respond quickly to infection and mitigates the effects of stress. Ginseng root is another exceptional ally for the immune system, especially against physical and emotional stress. No matter how you take it, it nourishes production of interferon, antibodies and killer T-cells. So long as you need ginseng, there's no overdose; however, if you take it when you don't need it, it may produce an unpleasant, jittery, speedy sensation.

Garlic

Garlic has been used to prevent infection for thousands of years – and it still works! No need to upset your stomach by eating it raw; cooked garlic retains its antibacterial powers provided you eat enough. It may not be your favorite, but inhaling the aroma of a cup of pungent tea could help you survive cold season.

Medicinal mushrooms

Medicinal mushrooms are not only immune system tonics, but Yang says they possess antibacterial properties that make them ideal for preventing fever infection. A tincture or strong infusion of any shelf fungus with pores can be used, he says.

Strengthen your immune system

Eat hot and healthy

What to do: When you want something hot and comforting, start your meal with a bowl of chicken-vegetable soup.

The benefits: Not only does chicken soup contain proven illness-fighting chemicals, but a study at Penn State University found people who ate it as an appetizer consumed fewer calories over their entire meal.

Get healthy shut-eye

What to do: Go to sleep and wake up around the same time every day, and don't eat heavy food or drink alcohol within a few hours of bedtime.

The benefits: Maintaining a consistent sleep cycle and avoiding nighttime binges are the keys to preventing insomnia.

Breathe easier

What to do: Get a high-quality air cleaner with a filter for your home, vacuum often, make sure your heating ducts are clean and open some windows to air out your home when weather permits.

The benefits: What seems like winter cold symptoms can often be allergic reactions to dust and fungus in stale, heated, indoor air. If you experience those symptoms when your gas heater kicks on, have them checked out right away.

Soak up the sun

What to do: Get out and enjoy the morning sunshine! If there's none to be found, consider using a light-therapy lamp.

The benefits: A day without sunshine may affect your mood. In a study at Wagner College in Staten Island, students were found to have almost four times more anxiety and irritability on cloudy days. Just a few minutes of real or artificial sunshine every day may give you a much-needed boost throughout the winter.



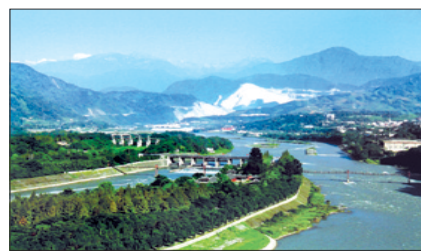


A bird's-eye view of the Dujiangyan irrigation system

CFP Photos

Dujiangyan

– A river runs through it



From left to right: Fulong Temple, Erwang Temple, a panorama of Mount Qingcheng and Lidui Park

By David Drakeford

Sichuan is one of China's most fascinating and visited provinces. Its name, 'Four Rivers,' literally counts only a few of its mighty waterways that have flowed from the northwest mountains across to the East, nourishing fields for thousands of years. The capital, Chengdu, may be a surprise for those who believe that all of China's wealth lies on the coast. It's a modern and affluent city whose citizens like to keep up with the latest fashions. Few could argue Chengdu's sites rival those of Beijing, so an appreciation of its historical importance is essential before a visit to the Dujiangyan Irrigation Project.

Some 60km northwest of Chengdu is the project itself: the oldest surviving irrigation system

in the world that does not rely on dams to control its water flow. Both this site and nearby Mount Qingcheng are listed as World Cultural Heritage sites.

The military side of the story

The dam's construction began during the Warring States period. At that time, Sichuan was a territory of Qin. Li Bing was appointed governor over its prefecture, Shu, and part of his responsibility was to turn the area into a strategic base for a military supply line to fight against Chu. The Min River was successfully diverted to Chengdu for shipping and wood drift. A new and lasting agricultural heartland was created that attracted a hundred thousand immigrants which, in turn, led to a powerful economy, success in war and the eventual formation of the first unified state of China – the Qin Dynasty.

The Area

The irrigation system is set in a pleasant location overlooked by the tree-lined slopes of Mount Yulei. At the northern end of the dyke is an early cable bridge stretching across the river. The main entrance to the works is at Lidui Park (60 yuan entrance fee). The main road from the entrance goes to the Fulong Temple and Dujiangyan Museum.

Lidui Park

It is certainly worth allocating some time for the park and its beautifully proportioned gardens, which perfectly conform to the Chinese concept of *fengshui*. Peaceful and quiet, they feature extraordinary bonsai work, ancient crape myrtle trees and ponds teeming with fat goldfish. One of the garden walls has a deliberate hole that 'frames' a section of the garden featuring a flowing waterfall.

Fulong Temple

Featuring a stone statue of Li Bing carved during Eastern Han Dynasty, (25-220 AD) this temple is supposedly where the great man defeated an evil dragon. Apparently building the ancient world's greatest irrigation system wasn't enough, but this act made him a legend. A working model of the irrigation system is on-site to help you understand the principles behind it.

Erwang Temple

A monument to Li Bing, his son and to dam system, this Qing Dynasty (1644-1911 AD) temple, named "Two Kings Temple," lies on the western bank of the Min River. Memorial ceremonies for Li and his son are still held there today, as well as the Releasing Water Festival on April 5.

Mount Qingcheng

This tranquil mountain is regarded as one of the cradles of Taoism. Its name, 'Green City,' is taken from the verdant peaks that resemble a city wall dotted with numerous temples. In 143 AD, some 400 years after the creation of the Dujiangyan irrigation system, an elderly man took a long journey to the foot of Mount Qingcheng. In this quiet place, he began his reflections that would lay the foundation of Taoism, the only major religion to originate in China. The man, Zhang Ling, is now considered an immortal.

The mountain is a 25km trip by minibus from Dujiangyan. If you ascend by cable car, a visit can be done on a day-trip along with seeing the irrigation system. Accommodations are available at temples and some expensive hotels.

A piece of engineering history

During the third century BC, Chengdu was threatened by frequent flooding of the Min River – a tributary of the Yangtze. A local official of the time, Li Bing, together with his son, planned an irrigation system that would stop the destructive nature of the river and irrigate fields for miles around. The design was both very

simple and very clever, relying on a detailed understanding of the area's topography and of the water's flow.

As the river courses round a curve at Mount Yulei, it is split into two channels by a dyke along the center of the river. Another similar, shorter dyke was built upstream. These force 60 percent

of the river into an outer channel. That water comes from the top of the flow, which leaves most of the silt to continue on into the inner channel with the main river.

During times of flooding, 60 percent of the water flows into the inner channel leaving a manageable 40 percent for the outer channel and irrigation purposes.

Any remaining silt is left to float gently to the bottom of the waterway utilizing the natural flow of the river at a 'notch' and a 'bowl' point further on. Flooding is controlled by allowing the system to fill with water until water levels recede, which is how many world rivers naturally deal with floods.

Getting there

The best way to get to Dujiangyan is by bus. The station is located on the south side of town, and the journey takes around an hour and a half on regular buses from Chengdu, which run 7am to 8pm. A two-and-a-half hour journey is necessary from Wolong Nature Reserve on two buses available at 8am and 2pm.



From left to right: the central square in Provincetown, a quiet street, a local walks his dog, seaside marshland and a seaside balcony

Photos by Shida Zhu

A seaside inspiration

By Shida Zhu

If you look at the eastern seaboard of the United States, you'll see a small peninsula – curved like a fishing hook – thrusting into the emerald Atlantic. That hook is home to Provincetown, Massachusetts, a quiet, New England town on Cape Cod.

From its white beaches, luxuriant marsh grasses and the piers that jut out into the sea, to its artistic, weather-beaten cabins surrounded by yellow-beaked seagulls, the town is so picturesque it's hard to imagine you haven't stepped into a fairy tale or poem.

The town's trolley offers a 40-minute narrated tour of the various sites, and a horse-and-buggy service will take you around the scenic cape.

Provincetown's streets are lined with small gift shops full of artifacts, antiques and ice cream. If drinking's your thing, the orange, inviting bar lights shine against whitewashed window frames even during daylight. Outside the bars, street artists abound, ready to scratch out portraits and caricatures for a couple of bucks. Some of the artists are Chinese art students looking to earn a few extra dollars for food and board.

Like many sea towns along the New England coast, beams from towering lighthouses sweep the night sea. Not only do these lights keep ships from crashing onto the rocky beaches, but they also offer travelers a view of the traditional, picturesque American coastline.

The earliest Puritan settlers arrived in Cape Cod on the

Mayflower in 1620. The original low-lying fields where they grew blueberries are still around. Those fruits saw them through many cold winters, and remain an essential part of the Thanksgiving holiday – almost as important as the turkey – in the minds of their descendants. Today, a monument stands in memory of their historic pilgrimage that spawned a new nation.

As a summer resort, the town boasts many seaside villas that walk out onto sandy beaches. The villas cater to all tastes and are named after flowers like 'rose,' 'forget-me-not' and 'daisy.' As early as 1942, Norman Mailer, a Harvard student, came to town with dreams of becoming a writer. After experiencing the stormy times of World War II, he

returned at 24 to pen *The Naked and the Dead*.

The town has inspired many other creative writers. Along the main street are homes inhabited by John Dos Passos, author of *Manhattan Transfer*, John Reed, author of *The Ten Days That Shook the World*, Kurt Vonnegut, author of *Jailbird*, and Nobel laureate Sinclair Lewis, author of *Babbitt*. But if you want to see their houses, you'll need to get the current resident's permission first. More often than not, they'll consent. Seeing the wooden walkways and seashore view, you can imagine how the author must have felt to sit there, sipping a beer and basking in the Atlantic's gentle breeze.

The town's Commercial Street is home to Norman Mailer's red-

brick house. Mailer returned to its vine-woven white fence in 1950 after he failing to realize his Hollywood dreams. As a young man, he was famous for his parties and heavy drinking at the Commercial Street bars. The "tough guy writer" drew inspiration from his surroundings to write *Tough Guys Don't Dance*. His later movie based on the novel was shot in Cape Cod.

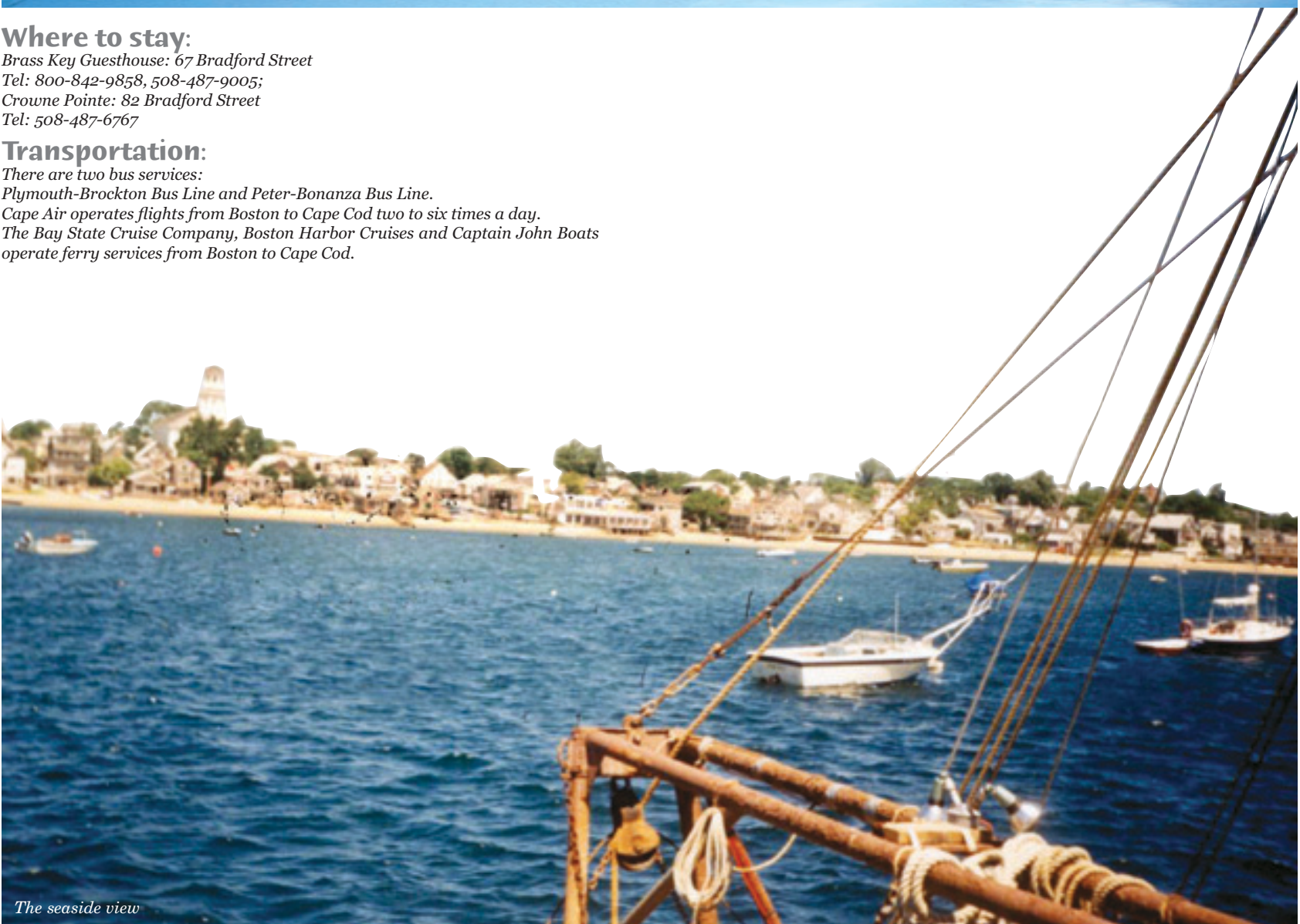
For arts and entertainment, you can attend theatrical performances at the New Provincetown Players where Charles Busch's *Times Square Angel* will be staged. The Provincetown Art Association and Museum and the fine arts Work Center are fine sources if you want to buy art that captures the revelry and romance of New England.

Where to stay:

Brass Key Guesthouse: 67 Bradford Street
Tel: 800-842-9858, 508-487-9005;
Crowne Pointe: 82 Bradford Street
Tel: 508-487-6767

Transportation:

There are two bus services:
Plymouth-Brockton Bus Line and Peter-Bonanza Bus Line.
Cape Air operates flights from Boston to Cape Cod two to six times a day.
The Bay State Cruise Company, Boston Harbor Cruises and Captain John Boats operate ferry services from Boston to Cape Cod.



The seaside view

By Han Manman

Beijing Foreign Enterprise Human Resources Service Co., Ltd. (FESCO) was the first major state-owned corporation in China to offer professional human resources services to foreign and domestic companies, foreign representative offices, financial institutions and business entities.

"We selected these three interns through three different recruitment channels. Li Ming was chosen via campus recruitment; Zhu Fang via online recruit-

ment; and Sun Chen at a recruitment fair. What we look for in graduates is an ability to learn and improve. FESCO emphasizes customer service, so we want students with good service awareness. We want our staff to be willing to serve others and not just show off their abilities.

FESCO is not particularly concerned with what our graduate recruits majored in. Students do not yet have real working experience, so we are more interested in whether they participated in things like

charity and voluntary work. Our interview process includes a lot of different tests including English, general competency and some psychological profiling. These tests allow us to judge applicants' character and disposition. We expect less from graduates than we would from full time staff in the competency section. Once they join the company, they need to receive training in our company work ethic, work procedures and other areas."

— Luo Li, HR manager, FESCO



FESCO: Service is the key



Zhu Fang obtained a Masters degree in human resource management from the University of New South Wales. She started her internship on September 12 this year in the customer service department and got a full-time offer one month later.

I majored in business administration in college. Once I'd made up my mind to take further study in Australia, I chose to major in human resources because it's an industry that is not yet mature in China. I thought studying HR would mean plenty of good opportunities for me in the future.

After I came back to China, I began my job search on fesco.com.cn, as many foreign companies use FESCO for recruitment. I found that FESCO itself was also looking for people. I was not too familiar with the domestic HR market at that time and I thought that working for FESCO would be a good place to get to understand the HR market in China better.

From the first day I started my internship, I knew what my difficulty would be — I knew little about the domestic HR market. What I learned in Australia was quite different from the reality in China. I didn't even know about local insurance and social security policies. I worked in

the customer service department, which is the front-of-house for the company, providing HR solutions to foreign companies. Every one of us had our assigned companies and specific services we would deal with, including endowment insurance and medical insurance. Everything was very complex.

I loved the fast-paced lifestyle. When I woke up in the morning, I had to think about the many challenging things I would face during the day. Since I was a newcomer at the company, I always listened to how my colleagues answered customer queries and tried to remember what they said so I could use their answer when I was asked the same question.

Every student wants to find a high paying job when they graduate but few actually do. Some also feel that they are not paid enough for the job they do. I believe a career is an ongoing process. If you focus less on short-term profit gains and you will gain a lot more in the future.

Comments from Luo: Zhu Fang chose her words very carefully at interview and was well mannered. When she deals directly with clients, she is resourceful and has good emotional control. We had a thorough-going talk with her at the interview stage. To be honest, we hesitated before recruiting her, because she had studied HR in Australia for four years and what she learned there was quite different from what we do here. With no work experience, she only had theoretical knowledge. But she was competent for the position we were offering her, and her knowledge was good compared with many of her peers. After weighing the pros and cons, we decided to give her a chance. What she will achieve time will tell.

I was interning in the HR department, though I majored in measuring and precision instruments. When FESCO came to have a campus recruitment talk at my school, I felt the speaker was very calm and thorough and he seemed to answer any questions I had without my having to ask. I am a steady person with a strong sense of responsibility and I do detailed tasks very carefully. I wanted to join a company with requirements that suited my personality.

Recruitment is a two-way street. I chose FESCO, and FESCO were very strict when choosing me. Only five to 10 percent of candidates were chosen from a total of a thousand resumes to take part in a group interview. This was very interesting. It included an exercise based on game theory. We were divided into four teams, though two teams were assigned to the same industry sector, which meant that we not only needed to compete as an industry but also within our sector. Game theory postulates that if you want to win you don't just try to beat your competitor but also cooperate with them. Four to six people took turns observing us to play. I was also observing them; guessing what position they held according to how they dressed, their facial expressions and behavior. But the deeper I became involved in the game,

the less I cared about who the interviewers were. I found that those chosen to go on to the second interview were not in fact the most aggressive players who participants may have thought were winning.

I have changed a lot, especially in my way of speaking, from when I was at college. Working in a HR department calls for polished and careful language. There are a lot of things you can't say directly, and have to express in a more roundabout way. This is still hard for me as a newcomer. I have to learn from my colleagues the way of speaking and how they deal with different issues, and also understand their way of thinking through the way they speak.

My advice to graduates is to work hard from the moment you send your resume. You should be serious when you send a resume to a company you want to work for and not just cast your net wide and hope a company will notice you. If you do not respect the company, they will not respect you. When you get a job, you should not just be satisfied with the work that is given to you. You should think about your next step in the company and gain appropriate knowledge in advance. Fortune favors the well-prepared.

Comments from

Luo: Li Ming was one of the graduates we recruited from a thousand applicants. The test results and his responses in the interview proved Li to be steady-going and humble, he did things without showing off. Through the group interview, we saw some people immediately showed aggression which is more suited for sales and so some immediately became team leaders. We found Li to be very focused on communication and very steady. What our HR department needs is just this kind of character, not the salesman type.



Li Ming graduated from Beijing University of Technology this July. Majoring in measuring and precision instruments, he started his internship in the human resources department this April and got a full-time offer three months later.



Sun Chen graduated from Beijing Wuzi University this July. Majoring in business English, he started his internship in the visa center this June and got a full-time offer one month later.

After two weeks training, I was assigned to the visa center to help our Chinese customers transact their business visas. Unlike other interns who have some days study and a mentor to teach them what to do, I immediately began work. One of my colleagues showed me around the embassy areas. The first time we took a taxi and then later he gave me a bicycle. I took the bicycle and looked around. To remember all the embassies, I drew my own map. My colleague spent half a day to tell me what I needed to know. Although much of what he said I didn't understand, I wrote it all down on, and went to the embassy area to start work.

Every day, I received a lot of visa documentation. I also needed to go to at least 10 embassies in the morning. I woke up at 5am and started work at 7am. If I wasted some time at one embassy, it would affect

my whole work schedule and delay getting a customer's visa. I gradually learned some tricks such as knowing the opening times of different embassies. Some days later, I drew up a schedule for all the embassies I needed to go to. I first went to the embassies which opened earliest. I also went first to embassies where I knew the secretary; she might spend less than ten minutes to help me finish all the procedures. I also kept a good relationship with some travel agencies. When people lined up in the morning, they sometimes kept a space for me and I used that time to go to other embassies, if the embassy had lots of candidates.

After a while, we got the thumbs-up when foreign embassy officials said that FESCO was very professional when handling visa transactions. I felt a strong sense of achievement.

Comments from Luo: Sun Chen is very suited to this position. In fact, the visa center's work is tiring and monotonous. Sun needed to do many repetitive tasks and fill in many visa forms every day but this is very important work and it is hard to get someone else to do it. When we hire someone at the visa center, we want someone who will stay in the position for a long time. So, when we choose someone we pay a lot of attention to their reliability. Sun Chen is not an aggressive person compared to others of his age. He is more conservative and wants a dependable job. The value judgments and behavior he displayed at his interview made us believe he would be a suitable person for the visa center and he has done a good job so far.

Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack specialized native-speaker help. We will review any English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions

will be given on how to improve Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, and around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

How to Overcome Shyness

By Li Jie

Presenting a speech in public doubtlessly requires a lot of courage, but not all can confidentially step onto the stage and speak loudly. Among the auditorium, there must be some people who dare not do that out of shyness, shyness depriving them of courage. The something similar also happens when shyness occupies people, stereotypical behaviors appearing, such as shaking bodies and red face. Moreover, opportunities flee by when people stay still and hesitate to catch them. They can not get rid of the mental barrier or overcome shyness in their minds. Therefore, overcoming shyness necessarily becomes inevitable in the process of people's success.

Self-understanding, on which people's confidence is based, lays foundation to the conquest of shyness. No explicit understanding of people themselves equals to the vain attempt in the endless darkness, with confidence with what they are doing. Without the understanding of physical and mental condition of their own, something that seems to be easily done turns to be a barrier that can never be overcome. Take the interviewees for example. Compared with the interviewees with thorough understanding of themselves, ones with little knowing are prone to becoming shy when they answer the questions by the interviewers. Therefore, improving self-understanding becomes necessarily the basic condition of being less shy.

The more practices, the less shyness. As to most beginners, who are regarded to be easily shy, more practices are needed. Proficient in their jobs, the experienced workers have healthy mental condition, like a building with sound construction, seldom broken down by shyness. As a matter of fact, the course of being less shy is a process of developing a steady and healthy mentality. Moreover, during the practices, people can get more knowledge and have their minds enhanced, which is important for defeating shyness. For instance, a singer with more than three times performance is more likely to show the personal charm rather than shyness.

For not regretting for being positive before chances, do not be shy. Have action. Shyness is not a permanent resident, but an immigrant. With clear self-understanding and immersion in more practices, overcoming shyness is not difficult as people imagine.

Li Jie is a student at Beijing Forestry University.



Kirk Kenny replies

You said it right when you said public speaking requires a great deal of courage and self-confidence. Most people have enough confidence to talk with their friends, but when the time comes to make a speech they freeze up. The good news is that everyone has the ability to overcome their fear of speaking in front of people. It is not an innate ability – one that you are born with – but one that anyone can develop.

A commonly used English idiom is 'practice makes perfect.' Public speaking is like a sport. Michael Jordan didn't become the most famous and greatest basketball player in the NBA just because of natural talent. In fact, he was cut from his high school basketball team. He was able to achieve so much in his career by working harder than everyone else.

Throughout high school I was deathly afraid of giving speeches. Making matters worse, I had to give a graduation speech. A few things helped me through it. One, I realized that if everyone

is listening to me I could take as long as I wanted. So I took a deep breath, looked at my notes, and then looked back at them. They suddenly didn't seem as scary. Two, I made a joke to start the speech. This relaxes you and the audience. If you can get the audience to laugh, then the first part is over, and it's all downhill from there. Third, I just kept talking and making eye-contact. I practiced so many times and made mistakes after mistakes, but only I knew so it didn't matter. Sooner than I thought I was finished, everyone clapped and I sat down again. It wasn't nearly as bad as I thought.

Overall, your essay is quite good. The ideas are solid and it is laid out properly with good flow from paragraph to paragraph. However, there are some grammar and wording problems that should be addressed. The most obvious problem to me is one common to all non-native English speakers. Most people tend to write with their dictionary open, translate a word, and then choose the most

difficult one available. Almost all the time, the simplest word will do; especially in conversation and public speaking. For example, you say: 'shyness occupies people' and 'immersion in more practices.' The verbs 'to occupy' and 'to immerse' are very strong and specific. I would say 'shyness takes over people' and eliminate 'immersion' altogether. Also, pay attention to your verb tenses. The final problems are simply using a wrong word. 'Confidentially' means 'in confidence' not 'with confidence'. The word you are looking for is 'confidently'. Another is that people 'take action' to fix a problem, not 'have action.' Finally, people are 'inclined' to do something not 'cline.'

Remember to relax when making a speech. The people are there for you, not you for them. Also, remember to use simple English words and phrases because they make the point more easily and more effectively.

Kirk Kenny is a teacher at New Channel school.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see any chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.



Photo by Andreas Thorud

Help oneself terminating machine

By Derrick Sobodash

Lost all your money on the stock market? Gambling addiction ruined your family? Looking to escape responsibility? China has invented a machine for you! If you can't wait for Skynet to start up the Terminator assembly line, here's a final solution. The only thing that would make this machine even more perfect is if this was found in a hospital.

Apparently the makers paid as much attention to China's legal code as pirates do to international copyright laws. In most countries not named 'The Netherlands,' euthanasia remains a controversial topic and illegal. It appears to be some kind of self-service machine, and the machine is probably an ATM or information terminal. While their creativity demands respect, 'Self-Service Terminal' gets my vote for proper English.




Photo by Andreas Thorud

Half past 8 friend changing club

By Derrick Sobodash

It's half-past eight. Do you know where your children are? Well, they may be at the Half Past 8 Friend Changing Club looking to swap away that brat who forgot to bring a present to their birthday party. Or perhaps there's something darker at work. Perhaps the club isn't a place, but a cudgel. Bashing your friend in the face with one might change his outer appearance pretty quickly.


Given its innocent-sounding location in the 'Sunshine Entertainment Center,' I'm betting Half Past 8 has something to do with entertainment. OK, I'm cheating and looking at the Chinese, but there's no other way to figure this one out. Two of the characters suggest this establishment has something to do with making friends. Parties are a place to make friends; so perhaps 'Half-Past 8 Party Hall' would be a more suitable name.



GOOSE "N" DUCK

HOLIDAY PARTIES!


COMPANY OR OFFICE PARTIES BOOK NOW!




CHAO YANG PARK WEST

65381691


SALES OFFICE



XMAS



NEW YEAR

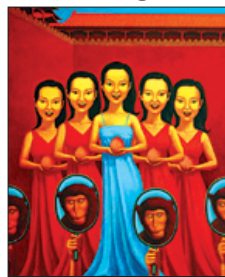


SPRING FESTIVAL

Friday, December 1

Exhibition

The Meaning of Pictures



Joint exhibition by five artists, Zi Qi, Zhi Qi, Wen Bing, Liu Shi and Zi Junyong.
Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10am-6pm, until December 8

Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 4122

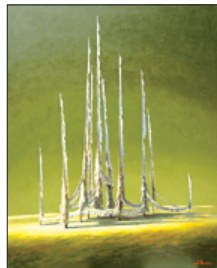
Group exhibition featuring Tan Ping, Lin Yan, Chen Ruobing, Xu Hongming, Wang Guanle, Zhou Yangming, Zhang Fan, Tang Kaizhi and Li Yan

Where: Onemoon Gallery, inside Ditan Park, Dongcheng

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until December 25

Admission: Free
Tel: 6427 7748

Contemporary Oil Painting Group Exhibition



Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, 1-1E Huawei Li (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang
When: Daily 9:30am-6pm, until December 31
Admission: Free
Tel: 8779 0461

Music

The Movement of the Unified Voice

Popular local band Lonely China Day perform alongside artists from six countries: Jodi Hargreaves, Sofie Igelstrom, Erin Shae, The Dangler, Melletios Kyriakidis, Monty Fendt and Dong Qing.

Where: 2 Kolegas, No 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8196 4820

Saturday, December 2

Exhibition

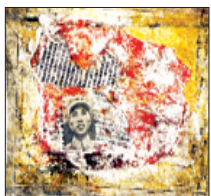
2007 Calendar of Contemporary Printmaking



Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dashanzi Art District, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until December 10

Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 1005

Liu Haichun Solo Exhibition



Where: New Art Center, No 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng
When: Daily 9:30am-6pm, until December 10

Admission: Free
Tel: 6528 9103

Movie

Goodbye, Lenin!

October, 1989 was a bad time to fall into a coma if you lived in East Germany – and this is precisely what happened to Alex's proudly socialist mother. Alex has a big problem

on his hands when she suddenly awakens eight months later. Her heart is so weak that any shock might kill her, and what could be more shocking than the fall of the Berlin Wall and the triumph of capitalism in her beloved East Germany? To save his mother, Alex transforms the family apartment into an island of the past, a kind of socialist-era museum where his mother is lovingly duped into believing that nothing has changed. What begins as a little white lie turns into a major scam as Alex's sister and selected neighbors are recruited to maintain the elaborate ruse – and keep her believing that Lenin really did win after all.

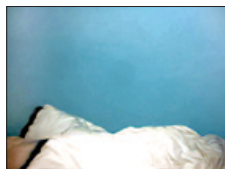
Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, Gongti Xilu (west side of Workers' Stadium), Chaoyang

When: 8:30pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Sunday, December 3

Exhibition



Chen Jie Solo Exhibition

Where: Long March Space, Dashanzi Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until December 31

Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 7107

Lu Xiao and Friends



The group exhibition features 32 artists.

Where: Beijing Art Now Gallery, opposite Gate 12, Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until December 22

Admission: Free
Tel: 6551 1632

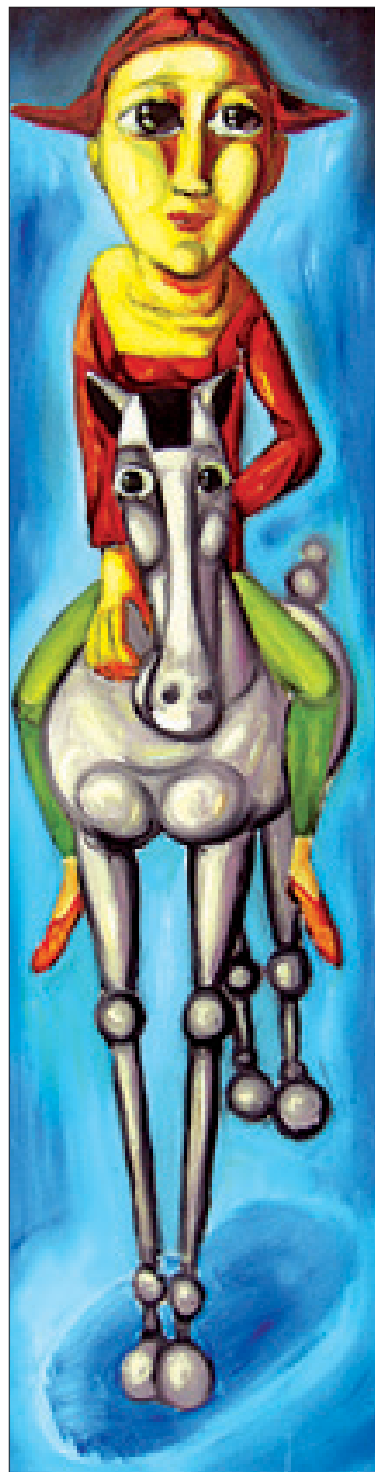
Movie

Amelie

Bursting with imagination and having seen her share of tragedy and fantasy, Amelie is not like the other girls. When she grows up she becomes a waitress in a Montmartre bar run by a former dancer. Amelie enjoys simple pleasures until she discovers that her goal in life is to help others. To that end, she invents all sorts of tricks that allow her to intervene incognito into others' lives, including an imbibing

concierge and her hypochondriac neighbor. Amelie's most difficult case turns out to be Nino Quicampoix, a lonely sex shop employee who collects photos abandoned at coin-operated photobooths.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartment, Gongti Xilu (west side of Workers' Stadium), Chaoyang
When: 8:30pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Stage in January, 2007

Music

2007 Beijing New Year Concert

Who: Beijing Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, January 1
Admission: 80-880 yuan

Vanderbilt Symphony Orchestra

Who: Vanderbilt Symphony Orchestra (US)

Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, January 1
Admission: 80-1180 yuan

Classical Chorus

Who: SK Chorus (Germany)
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, January 5-6
Admission: 80-680 yuan

China Symphony Orchestra 2006-2007 Season

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, January 13

Admission: 30-280 yuan

Richard Strauss Works

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, January 21

Admission: 50-680 yuan

Dance

Swan Lake

Who: Russian Samara State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, January 1-2
Admission: 120-880 yuan

New Year Ballet Concert

Who:

National Ballet of China
Where: University of Beijing Concert Hall, inside University of Beijing, Haidian

When: 7:30pm, January 1-2
Admission: 150-380 yuan

Thousand-armed Guanyin

Who: China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, January 24-25

Admission: 180-1280 yuan

Little Birch Tree

Dance Troupe

Who: The Little Birch Tree Dance Troupe (Russia)

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, January 28-31

Admission: 120-880 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)